

"HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES."



2022 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT



SINCE
1965

Board Approved: 9 /20 /22

RECAP, INC.

40 SMITH STREET

MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK 10940

Tel:(845) 342-3978 Fax: (845) 342-3638

WWW.RECAP.ORG

"Helping People. Changing Lives." Since 1965

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INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The Regional Economic Community Action Program (RECAP) conducts a community needs assessment every three years. The purpose of RECAP's Needs Assessment is to enhance understanding of the needs of each unique community in Orange County, New York and to understand the causes and conditions of poverty and to identify assets to reduce poverty and the conditions which cause it to increase self-sufficiency and health outcomes for individuals, families and the community. The report is meant to further inform the work of RECAP and any other interested community entity in efforts to improve conditions of living for Orange County, New York residents. Additionally, it allows the organization to review current programming, explore new programming and/or phase out programming which no longer may be indicated as a community need.

The community needs assessment coincides with the agency's strategic plan which will guide the organization over the next three years. The Community Needs Assessment was conducted in 2018 and an additional needs assessment was conducted in 2020 as a response to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Agency history

Regional Economic Community Action Program, Inc (RECAP), is a private, not for profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, which allocates funds from federal, state, and community sources.

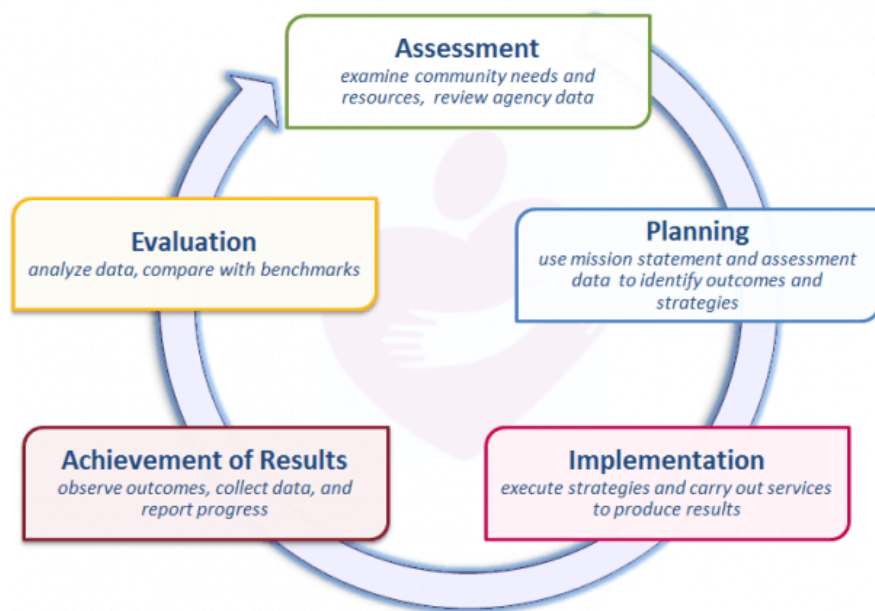
RECAP is a federally designated *community action agency*. Community Action Agencies were created by President Johnson in 1965 as a response to poverty and are local private or public non-profit organizations dedicated to utilizing public and private partnerships to address the causes and conditions of poverty.

RECAP has served Orange County, New York for 57 years. Until 2014, RECAP primarily served the western portion of Orange County, New York. In 2014, the CAP agency operating in the eastern part of the county was disbanded and RECAP was asked by Department of State to assume those programs and services as well. Finally, in 2019, RECAP began Energy Services and Weatherization Services in Rockland County.

Since 1965, RECAP has worked tirelessly to address the root causes of poverty and advocate for change through systemic reforms, social justice, and racial equity. We live and work in the neighborhoods we so passionately serve—coming together from all backgrounds and experiences to stabilize, sustain and empower individuals and families so they may build stronger communities.

ROMA/CSBG Standards

All Community Action Agencies (CAAs) use the *Results Oriented Management and Accountability* (ROMA) performance management system. It is a continuous cycle (illustrated below) that incorporates the core principles of Community Action nationwide. One of these core principles is that CAAs build local solutions to address local needs. In other words, CAAs are expected to base their strategies and priorities for services and advocacy on the needs and strengths in their communities. This is one of the essential and very special characteristics of community agencies; we do not take a cookie cutter, one-size-fits-all approach. We are deeply embedded in and responsive to the communities we serve. Aligned with that, we all receive funding from the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) that is very flexible and can be used to respond to emergent needs, support administrative infrastructure, or fill in gaps in funding in state or federal contracts. Maximizing the involvement of people with low income in the governance and development of the organization and soliciting input from a variety of sectors in the broader community are two other fundamentals of Community Action. ROMA is about promoting change for individuals, families and communities, in a way that is directed by them. This is why all Community Action Agencies have Boards that are at least one-third people who have direct experience living with low income. To assist CAAs with using the ROMA cycle, the



Office of Community Services within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has developed Organizational Standards that spell out how the core principles described earlier should be put into action. Each Community Action Agency must conduct a local needs assessment and develop a strategic plan every three years. The needs assessment contained in this document will be the foundation for a three-year strategic plan for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025. RECAP's Community Needs Assessment was conducted in adherence with the following Organizational Standards:

Standard 1.2 The organization analyzes information collected directly from low-income individuals as part of the community assessment.

Standard 2.2 The organization utilizes information gathered from key sectors of the community in assessing needs and resources, during the community assessment process or other times. These sectors would include at minimum: community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, private sector, public sector, and educational institutions.

Standard 3.2 As part of the community assessment, the organization collects and includes current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for their service area(s). **Standard 3.3** The organization collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment.

Standard 3.4 The community assessment includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed. The next strategic plan that will grow out of the needs assessment, to be published in the January of 2023, will follow the following CSBG Organizational Standards.

Standard 6.2 The approved strategic plan addresses reduction of poverty, revitalization of low-income communities, and/or empowerment of people with low incomes to become more self-sufficient.

Standard 6.3 The approved strategic plan contains family, agency, and/or community goals.

Standard 6.4 Customer satisfaction data and customer input, collected as part of the community assessment, is included in the strategic planning process.

Results Oriented Management Principles

- Assess poverty needs and conditions within the community
- Define a clear anti-poverty mission for the CSBG Network and the strategies and services to address those needs, both immediate and longer term, in the context of existing resources and opportunities in the community
- Identify specific improvements, or results, to be achieved among people with low-incomes and communities in which they live.
- Organize and implement programs, services, and strategies within the agency and among partnering organizations, to achieve anticipated results.

Results Oriented Accountability Principles

- Develop and implement processes to identify, measure, and record improvements in the condition of people with low-incomes and the communities in which they live that result from CSBG Network intervention.
- Use information about outcomes, or results, among agency tripartite boards and staff to determine overall effectiveness; inform annual and long-range planning; and promote new funding and community partnership activities.
- Encourage state CSBG offices and state CAA associations to work in coordination to advance ROMA performance-based concepts among CSBG Eligible Entities through ongoing training and technical assistance.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As noted earlier, RECAP completes a community needs assessment (CNA) every three years. In the 2018 CNA, the most pressing needs of the community were Housing, Employment, Food and Nutrition, Transportation, Education, Mental Health, Medical Health, Legal, Financial and Child Care.

While each of these are noted in 2022 CNA, there has been a change in their increased need and level of identified importance. While some of this can be attributed to a natural shift of priorities, COVID 19 has played a role in highlighting individual, family and community needs as well illustrating the disparate effects social conditions have in underserved and marginalized communities.

Racial and gender disparity continues to be an issue when measuring the effects of the social determinants of health. To not discuss these factors when conducting a needs assessment would not be accurately reflecting the experiences of our community as a whole. We know that our clients' experiences, opportunities, and outcomes are profoundly affected by the color of their skin and their cultural and class backgrounds, and gender and we want to know about these factors in people's lives. Moreover, race and ethnicity are social constructs without biological meaning. They have historically been used to categorize people into superior (White) and inferior groupings (all others). These labels are part of structural and institutional systems and policies intentionally designed to dominate and impoverish some, and elevate others.

The data used in conducting a CNA comes from, in part, the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau categories reflect harmful social constructs and perpetuate a way of thinking that has harmed many people and given unfair privilege to others. Census data that shows an association of poverty or lower education levels, etc. with having non-White skin has been used by people who have power and advantage to blame others for their poverty and deprivation. In fact, however, this association stems from structural and institutional systems and policies intentionally designed to dominate and impoverish some and elevate others. While we use the Census Bureau data, we also use additional ways to learn about the life experiences and world views of our clients to inform our work.

Orange County, New York is located in the Hudson Valley, approximately 60 miles northwest of New York City between the Hudson River on the east and the Delaware River on the west. It is the 24th largest county in NY. Orange County, New York, NY borders Passaic County, NJ; Sussex County, NJ; Dutchess County, NY; Putnam County, NY; Rockland County, NY; Sullivan County, NY; Ulster County, NY, and Pike County, PA. (1)

According to 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Orange County, New York has an approximately population of 401,310 people with a median age of 37.1 and a median household income of \$80,816. In 2016-2020 there were 131,421 households with average size of 3.4 people and estimated 146,879 housing units in the county. The Fair market



rate for monthly housing costs for renters for 2- bedroom apartment is \$1,412, an individual had to make \$28.21 on an hourly wage to afford this amount of monthly rent. The current average renter hourly wage is \$11.99. (2)

The population of Orange County, New York is 61.8 % White, 22.3% Hispanic, 11.3 % Black or African American, 2.99 % Asian, 0.73% American Indian and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander at 0.04%. (1) The second highest race or ethnicity population is Hispanic community in New York. (3) The last updated data information from the Census Bureau in 2015 of all available detailed Hispanic categories had Puerto Ricans as the highest Hispanic population (29,894) and Mexicans are second highest Hispanic population (14,339) in Orange County, New York. (4)

In Orange County, New York the language other than English spoken at home in is 24.9% and the most common is English 75.1% and Spanish 13.3%. (2)

The largest universities in Orange County, New York, are United States Military Academy, with 1,073 graduates; SUNY Orange, with 872 graduates; Mount Saint Mary College, with 579 graduates. (1) Total college degrees award in 2019 were 3,141 (1,747 to male and 1,394 to female). Most common student race or ethnicity were White (2,159 and 69.1%) followed by Hispanic or Latino (468 and 15%), Black or African American (219 and 7.01%), Asian (124 and 3.9%), Multi- Racial (75 and 2.4 %) American Indian or Alaska Native (12 0.3%), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (7 and 0.2%), and unknown (59 and 1.8%). (1)

In 2020, Orange County, New York had 3,209 awarded degrees. The most common race/ethnicity award with degrees at institutions in Orange County, New York were to white students. These 2,096 degrees awarded mean that there were 49.8% more degrees awarded to white students then the next closest race/ethnicity group, Hispanic or Latino, with 494 degrees awarded. (1)

In 2019, the Orange County, New York's institution with the greatest number of graduating student body was United States Military Academy with 1,1176 degrees awarded. (1). However, the most popular majors in Orange County, New York, NY are Registered Nursing (248 and 7.73%), General Business Administration & Management (225 and 7.01%) and Humanistic Studies (194 and 6.05%). (1)

In May of 2022 Orange County, New York employment population was at 182,499 with 5, 586 unemployed with an unemployment rate of 3.0%. The most common employment segments for those who live in Orange County, New York are in Education services, and Health Care &

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Social Assistance (27.3 %); Educational Services (12.9%); Retail Trade (12.9%); Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services (9.1%); Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services (7.2%); Construction (7.1%), Transportation and Warehousing and Utilities (6.7%) and Manufacturing (6.6%) (4).

In the New York region an average male makes \$85,908, while a female makes an average of \$67,637. A full-time male employee in New York made 127 times more than female employees. (1) The income inequality in New York in 2019 was 0.496 according to the GINI calculation of the wage distribution in all NY. At the time Orange County, New York was not calculated separately, however all the NY region was higher than the national average by 0.478. Meaning, wages are distributed less evenly in New York in contrast to the national average. (1)

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The homeownership rate in Orange County, New York is 61.31 % in 2020 with 88,453 owner occupied homes. The average car ownership is 2 cars per household. Commuter Travel Patterns in Orange County, New York of employed 16 years and older individual commute alone (73.8%). The average travel time to work is higher (34.40 minutes) than the average commute time of the normal US worker (26.93 minutes). (5)

In 2019, data provided by NYSCAA for Community Needs Assessment Orange County, NY report is attached below. In 2020, an updated data report was provided by NYSCAA and is shown proceeding the chart below with the correlation of the population differences and other data updates. (5)



11.7%

Orange County Poverty Rate

County Population:
380,085

*Population for whom poverty
status is determined:*

Overall
370,342
Population Under 18
95,640
Population 25 & Over
238,975
Population over 65
50,489

Living In Poverty

Individuals
11.7% (43,142)
Children (Under 18)
18.1% (17,281)
Adults 25+
9.2% (21,885)
Senior Citizens 65+
7.5% (3,772)

Orange County

Regional Economic Community Action Program, Inc. (RECAP)

40 Smith Street, Middletown, NY 10940
845-342-3978

www.recap.org



Education & Poverty

Education Attainment for Adults 25+ (238,975)



Total Population

No Degree	10.0%
High School	29.1%
Associate	30.3%
Bachelors +	30.6%

Living In Poverty

No Degree	25.1%
High School	11.5%
Associate	7.3%
Bachelors +	3.6%

Employment & Poverty

Living Wage for 1 Adult, 1 Child	\$34.78
Hourly Wage for FMR, 2BR Apt	\$26.87
Median Income	\$48,676
Median Income w/ HS Diploma	\$36,995
Male Median Earnings	\$44,458
Female Median Earnings	\$28,752



Health & Poverty



No Health Insurance	
Employed	7.0%
Unemployed	12.6%
Free/Reduced Lunch Program	65%

Gender & Poverty

Male	10.4% (19,151)
Female	12.9% (23,991)

Of those families with
Female Heads of Household
and Children Present

29.5%
Live In Poverty

Race & Poverty

White	11.0% (30,200)
African American	11.4% (4,554)
Hispanic/Latino	15.2% (11,561)

New York State Community Action Association - www.nyscommunityaction.org

Updated Population Change Data

As stated above in 2020, data on population profile was updated. During this ten- year period, total population estimates for the report area grew by 7.65%. The increase was from 372,808 individuals in 2010 to 401,310 persons in 2020. (5) The above data is based on 2010 reported numbers published for 2019. In 2020 NYSCAA (New State Community Action Association) published updated data for 2020 numbers.

Report Area	Total Population, 2010 Census	Total Population, 2020 Census	Population Change, 2010- 2020	Population Change, 2010- 2020, Percent
Orange County, New York, NY	372,808	401,310	28,502	7.65%
New York	19,378,088	20,201,249	823,161	4.25%
United States	312,471,161	334,735,155	22,263,994	7.13%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Decennial Census](#). 2020. Source geography: Tract

Poverty Change Rate Change

Report Area	Poverty 2010	Poverty 2011	Poverty 2012	Poverty 2013	Poverty 2014	Poverty 2015	Poverty 2016	Poverty 2017	Poverty 2018	Poverty 2019	Poverty 2020
Orange County, New York, NY	11.4%	13.9%	12.5%	13.6%	13.4%	12.1%	12.6%	10.9%	11.5%	12.3%	10.6%
New York	15%	16.1%	15.9%	16%	16%	15.5%	14.8%	14.1%	13.7%	13.1%	12.7%
United States	15.3%	15.9%	15.9%	15.8%	15.5%	14.7%	14%	13.4%	13.1%	12.3%	11.9%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#). 2020. Source geography: County

REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

Organizational Overview

The agency consists of 12-18 members of the Board of Directors who govern the agency and are comprised to represent equally three sectors; private; public and the people challenged by poverty. The agency's service areas cover Orange County, New York, which is 839 square miles. The agency has program offices in the three small cities where the population with low-income density demands the concentration of RECAP's resources. Orange County, New York is a rural/small city roughly 60 miles northwest of New York City. The population is approximately 401,810 of total households in 2020 in Orange County, New York, of the total population; 130,428 households were in poverty. A 10.7% in poverty status determined population of data collected by NYSCAA (New York State Community Action Association). (5)

RECAP's mission is to empower people and communities challenged by poverty, racism, and social injustice by collaborating with public and private partners to provide high quality health and human services, education, advocacy and hope. Our mission is realized when our neighbors achieve self-sufficiency.

RECAP serves Orange County, New York's most vulnerable residents including seniors, children, veterans, those living with HIV/AIDS, individuals and families affected by domestic violence, those challenged by substance use disorder, individuals returning home from incarceration, people who are homeless, immigrant families and those struggling to make ends meet. RECAP develops programming, informed by the community helping to strengthen families and individuals and increase self-sufficiency. RECAP's current programs include Supportive Housing, Head Start, Energy Services, Residential and Non-Residential substance use disorder treatment, Nutrition and Advocacy, Workforce Development and Training, SNUG anti-gun-violence program, Weatherization and Utilities Payment Assistance.

In this current time of the COVID-19 pandemic, RECAP has demonstrated resiliency, growth to programs and services provided to better serve the community the agency serves to help mitigate the effects of the pandemic beyond physical health effects. We expanded, modified and increased programs including, enlarging the capacity of RECAP Nutrition and Advocacy Programming to address food insecurity in our communities. Moreover, RECAP created new

partnerships with community organizations to create a mutual aid response as well as a meal delivery program to meet the needs of homebound community members.

RECAP has a core casework staff that handles advocacy, information and referrals to programs, such as Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, SSI, Unemployment, Veteran Benefits, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, court assistance, [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) and Housing Assistance, just to name a few.

As a multi-service agency our programs offer a variety of options for residents who need assistance. The following are the programs currently provided by RECAP:

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

RECAP's Supportive Housing programs target residents who are potentially homeless, veteran, affected by domestic violence, challenged by substance use disorder, elderly, disabled, or otherwise in need of permanent housing.

The goal of supportive housing and rental subsidy programs is to help participants regain and increase self-sufficiency. Participants and case managers develop goals and track progress and challenges. Case managers support participants addressing the social determinants of health as well as through social service navigation, replacing vital documents, or finding clothes for a job interview. Unemployed and underemployed participants maintain structured daily activities focused on employment, self and family care, financial literacy, and education.

Residences:

CREP

Community Re-Entry Project (CREP) offers permanent apartments all throughout Middletown and Newburgh NY for displaced families with low income who were living in hotels/motels.

AVENT HOUSE

Affordable living is provided to homeless or potentially homeless single men and women with furnished rooms in Middletown, NY. There is a community room and an onsite resident manager. They have a security program which is resident-developed. The facility is gated and has 24/7 surveillance, as well as onsite laundry, heat/hot water, and cable.

DORIS B. CHRISTOPHER SENIOR HOUSE

Permanent accessible housing, housing for men and women 55 years of age or older. Senior House began its operation in 1988 and offers single room occupancies, shared living facilities, laundry, heat/hot water and cable. A resident manager lives onsite to maintain grounds and offer 24/7 security.

RECAP case management services are provided on a one-to-one basis for tenants. Case managers help residents address the social determinants of health, as well as access other supportive services such as mental health, social services benefits, translation services and financial assistance. Additionally, recreational activities are coordinated to provide and ensure a more comprehensive quality of life for the tenants. RECAP provided weekly outings for individuals who had no access to transportation (shopping). Holiday events and dinners, movie nights in the main community room to offer activities to get them active and out and enjoying themselves.

FOCUS

A permanent residence for women and their children in Middletown, NY who may be affected by substance use disorder, domestic violence, and/or mental health issues. The residences keep women who may be vulnerable out of shelters and provides 24/7 security, laundry, heat/hot water and cable.

PACER

Pacer House is in Middletown, NY and it offers a furnished room for men and women with special needs including a history of incarceration, substance use disorder, and mental health issues. Shared living facility with a community room and provides heat/hot water and cable available.

HASBROUCK HOUSE

Hasbrouck House is located in Newburgh, NY and provides rooms, shared living facilities, a community room.

Rental Subsidy and Non-subsidy Programs:

In partnership with various agencies and grantors, RECAP can aid eligible Orange County, New York residents to increased self-sufficiency by providing rental assistance. The program helps reduce some of the pressure of meeting bills and allows the participant to find a path without subsidy.

CONTINUUM CARE:

The program provides rental subsidies for homeless persons with alcohol and substance abuse disabilities.

CONTINUUM OF CARE VETERANS:

The program provides rental assistance for qualifying veterans with case management.

HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS):

The HOPWA program's goal is to maintain housing stability, prevent homelessness; and improve access to care and support.

Many Orange County, New York residents are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and RECAP continues to work with the community to meet emerging needs throughout this tumultuous time. RECAP Case Managers assist clients with filling out applications such as Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which could ease the burden for those whose housing stability has been affected by COVID -19. RECAP recognizes the economic pain of the pandemic. The hurt that has been felt disproportionately in rural communities, communities of color and immigrant communities. RECAP's programming once again illustrates the commitment of RECAP in placing the needs of Orange County, New York community in need at the core of our work.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**NPC (Neighborhood Preservation Corporation):**

RECAP is a designated NPC under Article XVII of the Private Housing Finance Law of New York State. Article XVII which gives the New York State Office of Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) authority to contract with urban based not-for-profit organization to perform housing preservation and community renewal activities. The state has recognized organizations engaged in community development activities that lack administrative and planning funds essential to operate broad-based housing and service programs. As a result, the state provides NPC funding for community-based operations and programs.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Weatherization Services :

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) assists families and individuals by reducing their heating/cooling costs and improving the safety of their homes through energy efficiency measures. Household energy use reductions and resultant energy cost savings are significant. The average savings is in excess of 20%. (6)

RECAP uses grants provided through NYS Department of Homes and Community Renewal from the U.S. Department of Energy and Department of Health and Human Services provide funding to improve the energy efficiency of the homes of income eligible families using the latest technology in energy upgrades. Since the program began in 1976, DOE has helped improve the lives of more than 7 million families by reducing their usage and bills. RECAP has weatherized the homes of thousands of residents of Orange and Rockland Counties.

Orange County, New York Fuel Fund:

Part of RECAP's Energy Conservation Program, Orange County, New York Fuel Fund provides payments to home heating providers to help families overcome short-term financial hardships, who otherwise do not qualify for HEAP. The income guidelines are 10% higher than of those of HEAP. A household may qualify for a one-time award if its total annual gross income is within the guidelines. The fund can cover a portion of the cost for fuel oil, natural gas, propane, wood, pellets or electricity. The Fuel Fund also schedules community outreach and Lunch and Learns.

Energy Savers Program:

Applicants who are approved for The Orange County, New York Fuel Fund are encouraged to enroll in the Energy Savers Program. The Energy Savers Program is for Orange County, New York residents who may benefit from the implementation of an IDA (Individualized Development Account) to meet their growing energy/heating cost burden. We identify and enroll vulnerable consumers in services that will enhance their ability to manage their energy costs through the winter heating seasons.

Energy Conservation Workshops:

RECAP provides a brief overview of key energy measures that can be coordinated by the attendee with ease. A small weatherization kit is given to the attendees to take their first step towards energy conservation.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PROGRAMMING

The TRUST Center Middletown (Through Recovery U Stand Tall)

The Trust Center, a New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) licensed treatment facility specializing in drug and alcohol addiction. It assists participants on the path to recovery. Under the guidance of certified counselors, PEER staff and qualified health care professionals, participants can identify challenges which lead to addiction and develop a plan to resolve them through an outpatient rehabilitation program. The Trust Center is also receiving “dual diagnosis” participants, a participant suffering from both a drug or alcohol addiction and a psychiatric illness, such as bipolar or depression. The TRUST Center also embraces Medical Assisted Treatment as a part of treatment under the guidance of a medical director. Additionally, working closely with licensed staff, participants learn the benefits of sobriety, how to identify triggers that lead to relapse, and develop a treatment plan that works.

New Life Manor:

Long-term recovery is a challenging path to follow, particularly when one is just starting out. Sometimes a little extra support is needed to make it through the first few trails. New Life Manor (NLM) provides this much needed support in the transition from intensive treatment to sober independent living. The community residence offers a safe and supportive environment for 24 adult men recovering from drug and alcohol dependency.

New Life Manor is an OASAS-licensed treatment facility specializing in chemical dependency treatment. Under the guidance of the certified staff, the men at this halfway house learn benefits of sobriety, how to identify triggers that lead to relapse, and develop a treatment plan that works. Participants get the most of treatment by developing the skills to succeed in personal and professional situations. In addition, residents can participate in a family education program. The curriculum is designed to teach healthy forms of communication with emphasis placed on re-establishing family relationships.

Throughout the pandemic the staff of New Life Manor and TRUST Center worked together to ensure seamless delivery of services to clients. New Life Manor was part of a lock-down order and clients were unable to leave the facility. Staff provided programming for the clients as well as monitored health and safety and left 2 of the 24 program beds empty in case there was a positive test result.

The TRUST Center staff met with clients virtually to provide individual and group counseling and staff met in person for those clients staying at New Life Manor.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Our employment and training services fall under our Supportive Services and Advocacy Program. Our advocates and volunteers work with residents to alleviate the needs they have and identify household concerns. RECAP works on behalf of the region's most at-risk people to help them access resources to become economically self-sufficient. Addressing vocational and employment needs is another way for RECAP to address the social determinants of health. We advocate for our clients' needs. During our assessment process we see the need of educational opportunities, employment and training. Our goal is to help people find stability and advocate for themselves, their families and their futures while increasing their self-sufficiency.

During the assessment for other needs, we find the need of employment support & training. Our advocates start the process of helping the participants in resume writing, job readiness and training, post-employment services, and job development.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown and with many jobs lost in the community, RECAP's employment and training program were at a standstill due to social distancing and remote working. However, the need for employment and training is on the rise due to the return of individuals returning to work and trying to find a new job skill for new opportunities. RECAP has evolved with the current climate and is helping many Orange County, New York residents find employment and building skills and resumes to get participants back to the work force.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Head Start:

RECAP Head Start (Head Start) is a federally funded program for preschool children, aged 3 to 5 years, from low-income families. The aim, and ultimately the mission, is to prepare children for success in school throughout comprehensive family program.

An introductory health and development screenings when they first are enrolled. Health and developmental concerns are addressed. The parent and child are linked to medical, dental, and mental health services, to ensure the children are receiving the services they need. The early learning process has the teachers facilitate individualized learning experiences to promote children's readiness for school and beyond. Through planned and spontaneous instruction,

relationships with adults, and play the program supports physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of each child. Additionally, the family well-being is a factor and the parents and families are supported in achieving their goals, such as housing stability, continued education, and financial security. RECAP programs support and strength parent-child relationships and engage families around children's learning and development.

Our locations are situated In Middletown, Port Jervis and Scotchtown. Three locations within Orange County, New York. During the COVID- 19 pandemic, Head Start held some virtual learning activities for help the children during the tough times of being in isolation. It helped with the children's learning and social development.

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

Emergency Food Pantry

RECAP's Food Pantry provides a 3-day emergency supply of food to income eligible Western Orange County, New York residents. It provides food to those struggling with food insecurity.

Emergency Food Closet

In the City of Newburgh, RECAP's office operates an emergency food closet. The food closet provides an immediate supply of food for anyone in need. A subsequent intake is completed and clients work with their case manager to identify and work towards identified goals. Additionally, each person is provided a list of food pantries and soup kitchens in operation throughout the City of Newburgh.

Bread and Cakes: In partnerships with local supermarkets and bakeries RECAP is able to provide bread and cakes to eligible Orange County, New York residents in Western Orange County, New York. It allows individuals to stretch their purchasing power in the store with this additional food category supply to their family.

Thanksgiving Food Basket: Supported by donations by the community and partners we are able to distribute Thanksgiving food baskets to eligible individuals and families which includes all of the ingredients to have a complete Thanksgiving meal.

- Nutrition for families and school-age children was on high demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food insecurity and COVID 19:

School closures, loss of employment and many other factors contributed to food demand needs from many Orange County, New York families. Nearly 1 in 4 households with children suffer from food hardship in New York. RECAP, deemed as an essential workplace, was on the front lines daily ensuring distribution of food to the community. In addition to our traditional food pantries, working with the Office of the Aging, we provided and delivered 187 hot meals to seniors daily. Lastly, RECAP started Newburgh Mutual Aid (NMA). This program was designated as an emergency food pantry and provided delivery and pick up options for those challenged by food insecurity.

SNUG

RECAP has a commitment to addressing social determinants of health and in doing so increasing public safety. RECAP's SNUG Program is an additional tool in making communities safer. The SNUG program, supported by Orange County, New York and City of Newburgh's officials, community residents, business and community-based organizations, collaborates with the community to respond to gun related shootings and killings.

With the rise of gun violence in Newburgh, New York. SNUG returned to Newburgh in September of 2020. Recap's staff operating as credible messenger and outreach workers, work to reduce gun violence by mediating conflicts with alternatives to violence.

RECAP's SNUG credible/outreach messengers work side by side with those community members who are seeking a change of lifestyle. The SNUG Team canvasses the community and hosts or co-hosts community events, to build community ties, educate, and inspire community enrichment and shifting the mindset of gun violence being a community norm.

Services with the SNUG Program are:

- Conflict mediation
- Community outreach & Leadership Mentors
- Educational & employment assessment
- Linkage to available resources
- Sustainable Growth Plan

Participants who are eligible are between the ages of 14-25, who are involved in high-risk activities, residents of the City of Newburgh, New York, and individuals with current or former gang involvement or with gun-related criminal history. (7)

KEY INFORMANT AGENCIES

The following agencies were invited to participate in the Community Needs Assessment via survey, focus group, phone interviews:

- Joint Members of Health and Community Agencies
- Catholic Charities Community Services Orange, Sullivan and Ulster Counties
- Independent Living, Inc
- HONORehg
- Mental Health Association Orange County, New York
- ACCESS Supports for Living
- Mental Health Association in Ulster County
- Coordinated Behavioral Health Services, LLC
- RSS, Inc
- The Center for Community Engagement and Wellness
- Cornerstone Family Healthcare
- RUPCO
- RDAC
- SUNY Orange
- MISN
- ADAC
- United Way Dutchess Orange Region
- Safe Harbors
- LYNC
- Orange County, New York Government
- Newburgh Free Library

METHODOLOGY

In conducting this Community Needs Assessment, RECAP, Inc. used:

- surveys,
- in-person interviews,
- focus groups, and
- current information (Census Bureau, County and local data reports).

In addition, the agency's web-based case management system, MYCAP, provided information and reports for program specific analysis that demonstrated significant concerns of the staff, consumers and focus groups. Once all surveys and data were collected from Program Directors and Advocates, a collective list of high priority Orange County, New York needs was established. In addition, in this CNA we included the top concerns and priority of the current COVID-19 pandemic concerns and needs of all in the community and at RECAP.

COMMUNITY SURVEYS:

The first data collection method used was a community survey questions which were developed on the Microsoft 365 -Forms platform. The survey could be completed either electronically or in paper form. Participants could pick up the paper forms in the RECAP program offices. All paper surveys were manually entered into our database and it calculated the answer for our results for the agency's direction. A survey link was emailed to community stakeholders and agency staff to be completed online. In addition, a link to the survey was placed on the agency's website and Facebook page for consumers, board members, concerned citizens or anyone visiting the website.

A separate Board Member survey was developed and emailed to each board member. An in-person interview was completed. Of the surveys 10 of the 12 members returned or participated in the survey meeting listing opinions about the top needs in the community and types of services that would help meet the needs.

CONSUMERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOCUS GROUPS:

The data collection method used for the survey for the Board of Directors was via one-on-one virtual meetings. The Board members answered the four questions regarding their thoughts and opinion on the strengths and needs of their community and possible services that RECAP could offer to help the community. Each question was given a specific amount of time to allow for a full discussion.

PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:

One central person was responsible for organizing information collected by the program directors, advocates and their program reports. The total information represented all responses from online surveys, focus groups, health service advisory meetings, and existing information (US Census Bureau and county and local data reports).

A committee of RECAP program staff analyzed the compiled information to determine core areas of needs and their possible causes and conditions with possible solutions addressing needs. The information gathered indicated recurring needs for Orange County, New York. The core areas identified are detailed in the following pages. The levels of need and possible solutions listed at the close of each need topic listed are only suggestions. Comments, ideas and strategies are welcome and would strengthen the spirit of unity that will be needed in addressing issues facing individuals, children and families; the agency; and/or the community struggling with low income.

POVERTY AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

POVERTY

Poverty is defined by social scientists as a social condition that is categorized by the absence of resources needed for basic everyday needs, such as lack of access to appropriate food, clothing and housing. People living in poverty may experience increased challenges of hunger, unstable housing, lack of vocational opportunities, less safe neighborhoods, and an inability to access healthcare. Sociologists believe poverty is an equal opportunity social condition. While poverty affects everyone, women, children, people of color are far more likely to experience poverty than white men. (8)

Nationally each year a federal poverty line is established in the United States. In 2019, a family of four living with an average annual income of \$32,188 or less was considered living at or below the federal poverty level of 125% of the national income. In 2020, it increased to \$53,000 for a family of 4, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Federal poverty line was increased to 200%. RECAP eligibility for programs for participants go under the threshold of 125% of the poverty guideline, therefore for 2019 a family of 4 would be able to receive services if their annual family income was \$32,188 or less. During the COVID-19 pandemic the Federal Poverty guidelines for services was raised to 200% to meet the needs of the community economic issues. Therefore, a family of 4 within the 200% Federal poverty guidelines of \$53,000 were eligible for services. (9)

Orange County, New York estimated 10.6 % of the people lived in poverty in 2020 compared to its three small cities: Middletown (14.8%), Newburgh (22.0%), and Port Jervis (23.4%). (4)

The impact of the social determinants of health which include poverty, lack of safe and healthy housing, crime, lack of healthcare access and food insecurity, and poor nutrition on health and well-being is an impact subject to RECAP. There is a growing awareness and acknowledgment in the health care community that disparities in health outcomes, often, are driven by social determinants of health than by access to medical care. (10) Children are one of the groups impacted the most by poverty. The impact of poverty on the health and development of children has as much to do with the culture of poverty as it does with the economics of poverty. Children who are grow up in poverty are often exposed to poor schools and education and reside in poor neighborhoods with high crime (gangs, drugs, and violence). The lack of safety in their surroundings for the children to assemble and play is a reality that is faced by many

families who are poor. Children who reside in communities high in poverty are less likely to participate in sports or any after-school activities. Children whose family is headed by a single parent or parents with less than high school education are more likely to experience poverty. Altogether these cultural and environmental impacts can have a negative effect on the intellectual, emotional, and physical development of children. (11)

Two types of poverty that families can experience, “Generational Poverty” or “Situational Poverty”. Generational poverty is when families have experienced at least two generations of poverty. Situational poverty is caused by job loss, divorce, death, etc. The variance of the two types of poverty affects the family’s capability to change out of the state of poverty. (12) Social and economic deprivations during childhood and adolescence can have lasting effects on individuals, children who experience growing up in low-income families. They have a more difficult time escaping poverty as adults. African-Americans and minorities are more likely than white individuals to be poor in early and middle adulthood. (13) Measuring the social determinants of health when working with clients is vital to enhancing health outcomes beyond physical health.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected families who already experiencing poverty. These families were dealing with generational poverty and then plunged into situational poverty by job losses, sickness and death. With social services programs and the CARES Act, non-profit agencies, like RECAP, have provided relief and assistance to affected families. The rise of food prices, gas, rent and car/mortgage loans continues to have an impact on families keeping them at or below the poverty line and unable to make ends meet. The Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University stated that 4.8 million more people would move into poverty in January 2021 without the CARES ACT and unemployment benefits. (14)

The family structure and gender can be a contributing factor to family poverty when the household is headed by a female. The chart below shows that female headed households live in poverty at a greater rate than male headed household types. Throughout COVID working women and women-headed household were disproportionately affected as they lost or left jobs due to the fluctuating nature of school and day care closures.

FAMILIES IN POVERTY BY FAMILY TYPE

Report Area	Total Families	Families in Poverty Total	Families in Poverty Married Couples	Families in Poverty Male Householder	Families in Poverty Female Householder
Orange County, New York, NY	95,759	7,325	4,006	570	2,749
New York	4,670,153	464,991	174,675	46,340	243,976
United States	78,849,830	7,245,704	2,684,272	768,434	3,792,998

(2) – Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2016-2020. Source geography: County, state and U.S.

Of the households in poverty, female headed households represented 37.5% of all households in poverty, compared to 54.7% of households headed by males and married couples. (5)

POVERTY RATE CHANGE

Report Area	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Orange County, New York, NY	11.4%	13.9%	12.5%	13.6%	13.4%	12.1%	12.6%	10.9%	11.5%	12.3%	10.6%
New York	15%	16.1%	15.9%	16%	16%	15.5%	14.8%	14.1%	13.7%	13.1%	12.7%
United States	15.3%	15.9%	15.9%	15.8%	15.5%	14.7%	14%	13.4%	13.1%	12.3%	11.9%

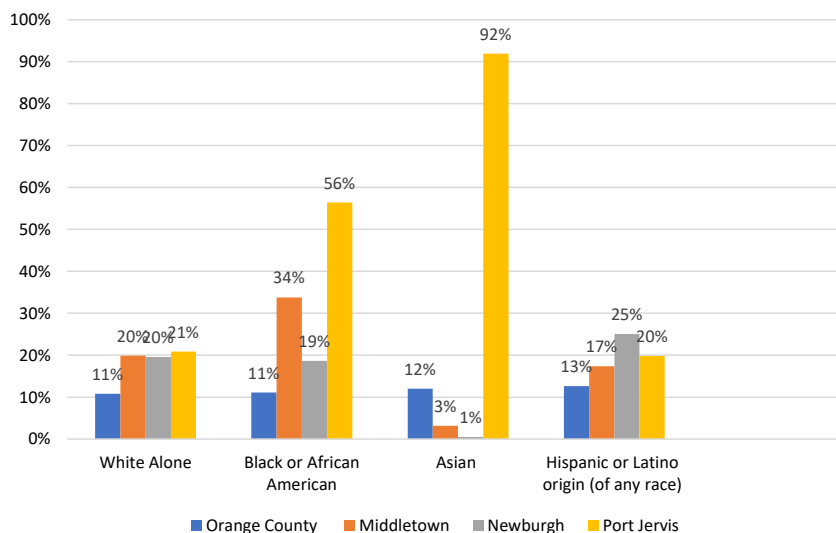
According to the U.S Census, the poverty rate for the area was 12.3 % in 2019. (15) – Note This indicator is compared with the state average.

Data source US Census Bureau, Small Area Income Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). Source geography: county, and U.S. 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5 – Year Estimates,

POVERTY BY RACE/ETHNICITY

The United States Census Bureau 2020 estimates for Orange County, New York show a total of 39,895 at a 10.6 % poverty rate are living below the poverty level in the reported area. The poverty data information is based on 100% of the federal poverty income guidelines. Detailing poverty levels based on race and ethnicity is was observed that 30,200 are White, 4,554 are Black/African American, and 11,561 are Hispanic/Latino. (5) Newburgh and Middletown, New York has the higher poverty rate among Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino origin than any other location in Orange County, New York. Individuals identifying as White have a higher rate in Orange County, New York than in New York but lower in the United States. (15)

Poverty Rate by Race, Ethnicity and Place



Population in Poverty by Race Alone

This indicator reports the percentage of population in poverty in the report area by race alone.

(3)

Report Area	White	Black or African American	Native American/ Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Orange County, New York	29,297	4,449	95	1,269	73	4,672	2,500
	10.83%	11.11%	6.69%	12.00%	27.4%	16.23%	12.12%

New York	10.11%	20.38%	22.30%	14.69%	23.77%	23.37%	17.29%
United States	10.60%	22.07%	24.13%	10.61%	16.81%	19.66%	15.08%

(16)

On the United States Census Bureau estimates are not comparable to other geographic levels due to methodology differences between different data sources. Due to the COVID- 19 pandemic many data are not absolute, due to lockdown, social distance and individuals not able or wanting to participate in the 2020 Census.

Population in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone

Report Area	Total Hispanic/Latino	Total Not Hispanic/Latino	Percent Hispanic/Latino	Percent Not Hispanic/Latino
Orange County, New York	9,895	32,460	12.61%	11.05%
New York	759,828	1,821,220	20.905	11.85%
United States	10,642,653	30,267,673	18.29%	11.62%

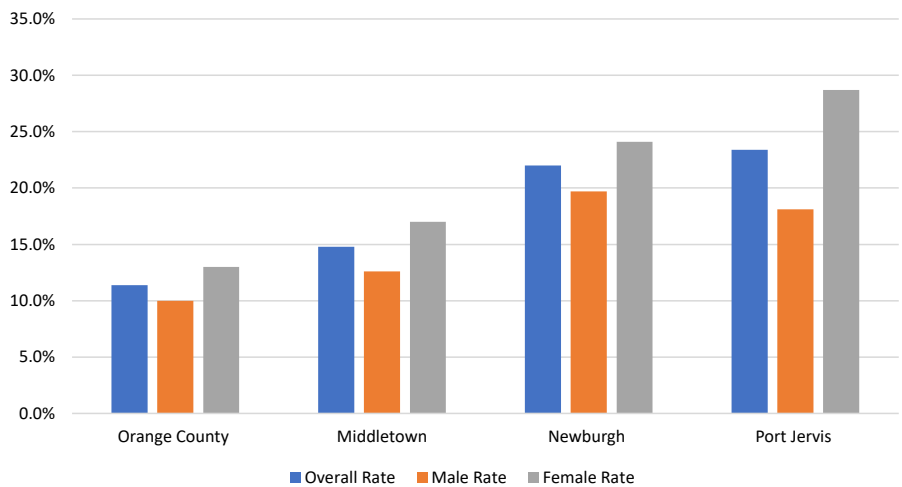
(3)

Poverty by Gender

Women consistently have advanced rates of poverty compared to men across the county. Since women are earning lower wages than men. The number of males 19, 151 and 23,991 females are currently living below the poverty level in Orange County, New York (5) Of those families with female head of households and children present, 29.5% live in poverty. The family compositions and age of the child or children greatly impact the poverty rates. In 2015-2019, 38.1 % of families with a female head of household and no spouse present had income below the poverty level; the highest rates are seen in single mother households with children under the age of five. The same is not correlated in the poverty rate of children under five in single father households. As children of age who enter school, parents are able to enter the workforce and can improve their wage-earning ability. (2)

In 2019/20 program year 41% of RECAP's Head Start families were single mother families. These families have incomes below the federal poverty guideline. This poses challenges of self-sufficiency for adults and is correlated to health, nutrition, and educational achieving issues for their children. (17)

Poverty Rate by Gender



(2)

Population in Poverty by Gender

**ORANGE COUNTY,
NEW YORK**
Male: 18,903 | 10%
Female: 23,452 | 13%

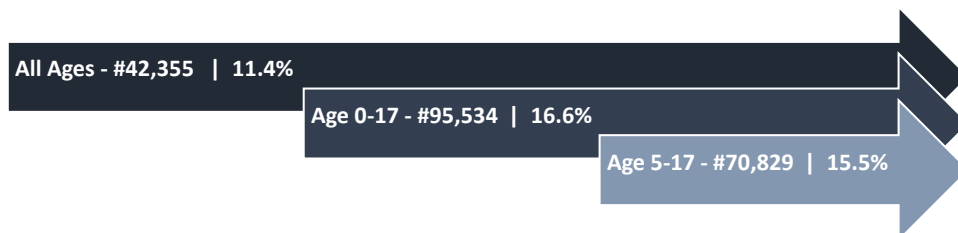
NEW YORK
Male: 1,131,023 | 12%
Female: 1,450,025 | 14%

UNITED STATES
Male: 18,171,512 | 11.6%
Female: 22,738,814 | 13.99%

Poverty by Age

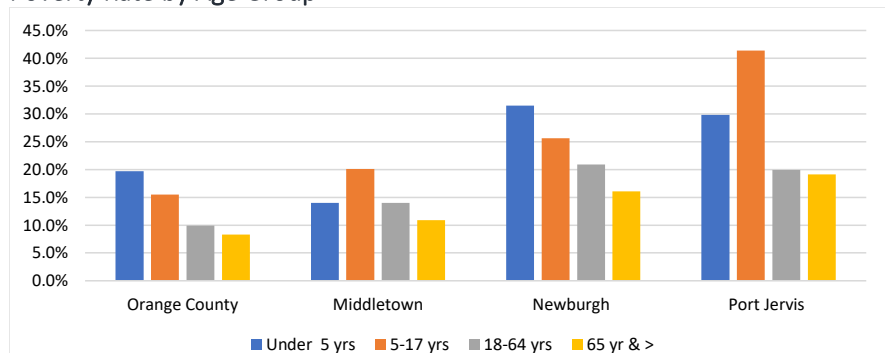
Nearly 1 in 4 children under age five live in poverty in Orange County, New York. Children are more likely to experience poverty than adults as indicated by a comparison of the rate of poverty for children 0-4 age (19.7%), 0-17 age (16.6%) to adults 18-64 age (9.9%) and 65 and over (8.3%). Newburgh has the highest rate of poverty across all age groups, Port Jervis is close in second highest rate or poverty with almost equal percentages. Middletown has a lower rate of poverty (14.0%) for children 0-4 than the other two cities, the county, the state, and the United States. (2)

Population in Poverty – Orange County, New York



In Orange County, New York poverty was highest amongst White children at 21% (ages 0-5) and Hispanic/Latino children come close in comparison at 15.7% (ages 0-5) and 16.5% (ages 5-17). However, Black/African American (8.63%) children. The chart below demonstrates the comparison in percentages in Orange County, New York and the cities RECAP serves and the individuals living below the poverty level.

Poverty Rate by Age Group



Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0-4 (5)

Report Area	Ages 0-4 Total Population	Ages 0-4 in Poverty	Ages 0-4 Poverty Rate
Orange County, New York	24,705	4,878	19.7%
Middletown	1,598	224	14.0%
Newburgh	1,821	574	31.5%
Port Jervis	456	136	29.8%
United States	19,294,872	3,679,064	19.1%

Children in Poverty by Race Alone, Percent: 5-17 yrs. (5)

Report Area	Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Orange County, New York	16.6%	12.34	0%	8.27%	0% (no data)	18.53%	14.15%
New York	11.62%	27.94%	25.96%	16.18%	18.205	30.60%	19.99%
United States	10.18%	30.43%	29.89%	10.60%	22.30%	26.76%	17.16%

Children in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone: Ages 5-17 yrs. (5)

Report Area	Total Hispanic/Latino	Total Not Hispanic/Latino	% Hispanic/Latino	% Not Hispanic or Latino
Orange County, New York	3,080	7,890	16.50%	15.13%
New York	187,341	338,658	27.13%	15.13%
Unites States	3,202,214	5,717,421	24.18%	14.46%

There are 74 census tracts in the Orange County, New York area; however, the highest concentration of people living below the poverty line served by RECAP is located in and about seven tracts in Middletown, Newburgh, and Port Jervis. These census tracts are: Middletown Census Tracts 12 and 151; Newburgh Census Tracts 4,5.02 and 5.0; and Port Jervis Census Tracts 22 and 21. The table below demonstrates a comparison of population by numbers and percentage for age groups under 18 and over 65.

Population Per Census Tract (5)

	Middletown		Newburgh			Port Jervis	
	Census Tract 12	Census Tract 151	Census Tract 4	Census Tract 5.02	Census Tract 5.01	Census Tract 22	Census Tract 21
Total Population	2,225	6,543	4,529	4,055	2,895	2,554	3,533
Under 18 yrs.	660	2,071	1,114	1,347	2,034	276	711
% Under 18 yrs.	39.7%	31%	24.6%	33.2%	70.3%	10.8%	20.1%
Over 65 yrs. & older	129	348	509	280	295	846	756
% Over 65 yrs. & older	5.8%	5%	11.2%	6.9%	10.2%	33.1%	21.4%

In addition to prevalence of poverty among children and vulnerable and historically underserved, poverty is also concentrated geographically in particular census tracts within the three cities; Middletown, Newburgh and Port Jervis. Census tracts of concentrated poverty can potentially be deficient in income, jobs, recreation, education and other opportunities and social supports. Areas of concentrated poverty can also have higher crime rates, less adequate housing, inferior health results. Newburgh has 32 census tracts. Race, gender, age all play factors as poverty is examined. Structural racism and sexism play significant factors in access to opportunity for individuals and families to find pathways out of poverty and to improved health and well-being outcomes.

Individuals in Poverty Per Census Tract (5)

	Census Tract 4	Census Tract 12	Census Tract 151	Census Tract 21	Census Tract 22	Census Tract 5.01	Census Tract 5.02
Total Population	4,436	2,200	6,085	3,374	2,537	2,892	4,054
# People in Poverty	1,059	302	1,478	890	449	779	736
% People in Poverty	23.9%	13.7%	24.3%	25.6%	17.7%	26.9%	18.2%

Overall, the effect of poverty as a social and economic issue in Orange County, New York is an important health indicator to the health and well-being of the community. The county's poverty rates affect over 40K individuals in Orange County, New York. The experiences of each of these individuals may differ, however they all have things in common in facing obstacles to increasing their self-sufficiency, addressing social determinants of health, their incomes, especially those experiencing racial and/or gender discrimination and generational or concentrated poverty.

RECAP has spent 57 years working to address the social determinants of health long with our public and private partners in Orange County, New York to improve the lives of these most vulnerable individuals.

Foreign Born

As of July 2021, an estimated 11.5% of the people living in Orange County, New York were foreign born compared to 24.6% in Newburgh, 16.1% in Middletown and 6.6% in Port Jervis. (2)

Race and Ethnicity - 2020 (2)

	Middletown city, NY	Port Jervis city, NY	Newburgh city, NY	Orange County, New York, NY
Total Population	30,421	8,798	28,931	401,310
White alone	16,031	6,985	11,572	315,830
Black or African American	6,631	404	6,104	55,782
American Indian and Alaska Native	91	175	17	3,611
Asian	1003	228	520	12,440
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	30	0	0	401
Hispanic ethnicity	11,803	1,513	15,507	90,696
Non-Hispanic Ethnicity	10,616	6,316	6,133	245,200

Orange County, New York has become and is a diverse county, however, the county still has a higher population of predominantly white individuals in the community. As demonstrated in charts below, overall percentage of individuals in the county is 64.2% White; 10% are Black/Black; less than 0.2% are American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian were 2.7%; less than 0.5% were Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. An estimated 20.5% of the people in Orange County, New York were Hispanic.

Race and Ethnicity – Percentage of 2020 Total Population (2)

	Middletown city, NY	Port Jervis city, NY	Newburgh city, NY	Orange County, New York, NY
White alone	52.7%	79.4%	40.0%	78.7%
Black or African American	21.8%	4.6%	21.1%	13.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%	2.0%	0.6%	0.9%
Asian	3.3%	2.6%	1.8%	3.1%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0%	0%	0.1%
Hispanic ethnicity	38.8%	17.2%	53.6%	22.6%
Non-Hispanic Ethnicity	34.9%	71.8%	21.2%	61.1%

As demonstrated in the chart above, Port Jervis has the largest number of white only population (79.4%), and African American/Black population (21.2%) are at almost even in comparison with Middletown with some percentage higher at 21.8%. In Newburgh, Hispanics are the highest within the Hispanic population count (53.6%) of the three cities.

Our agency provides services or have clients who reside from different Census Tracts in the county. The chart below demonstrates the differences of race and ethnicity in the cities' demographics.

Percent of Total 2020 Population - Race and Ethnicity by Census Tract (2)

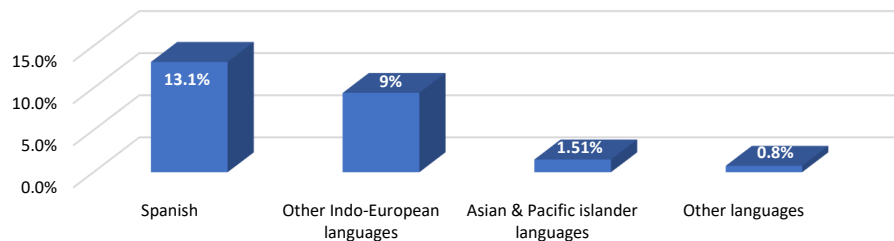
	Middletown		Newburgh			Port Jervis	
	Census Tract 12	Census Tract 151	Census Tract 4	Census Tract 5.02	Census Tract 5.01	Census Tract 22	Census Tract 21
White Alone	40.5%	44.8%	30.6%	39.6%	39.9%	91.4%	78.9%
Black or African American	24.5%	26.3%	52.9%	7.75%	7.3%	1.8%	12.5%
American Indian & Alaska Native	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	2.17%	<0.5%	0.7%	<0.5%
Asian	0.7%	1.5%	<0.5%	0.7%	1.6%	0.9%	5.01%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Hispanic	43.6%	36%	26.6%	76.7%	74.4%	16.5%	9.8%
White only, not Hispanic	25.2%	31%	20.4%	14.9%	13.9%	80.5%	75.4%

The breakdown of RECAP's October 1st, 2020 to September 30th, 2020 was 46.4% (2891) White, 19% (1439) Black or African American, 14.9% (933) Biracial/Multi-racial, 5.9% (369) Asian, and <1.5% (97) American Indian or Alaska native 0.14 (9). An estimated 43.7% (2725) Hispanic or Latino. (17)

Language

Among the individuals at least five years old and older in Orange County, New York 24.6% spoke a language other than English (at home) compared to 34.6% in Middletown, 43.6% in Newburgh, and 10% in Port Jervis. Of those speaking a language other than English (at home), 13% spoke Spanish in Orange County, New York compared to 28% in Middletown, 40% in Newburgh, and 5% in Port Jervis.

Percent of the Population 5 years & over who speak a Language other than English in Orange County, New York, New York in 2020 (18)



Language Proficiency-2020

	Middletown city, NY		Port Jervis city, NY		Newburgh city, NY			Orange County, New York, NY
Population 5 yrs. or older, 2020	26,282		7,889		26,244			356,642
	Census Tract 12	Census Tract 151	Census Tract 22	Census Tract 21	Census Tract 4	Census Tract 5.02	Census Tract 5.01	
	2,024	5,547	2,508	3,215	4,085	3,797	2,680	

Speak English “not well”	0.69%	1.71%	0%	0%	0%	1.16%	0%
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54.9% of RECAP’s 2015-2019 client enrollment was of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin, 29% of them spoke Spanish at home and sought English translation support from RECAP.

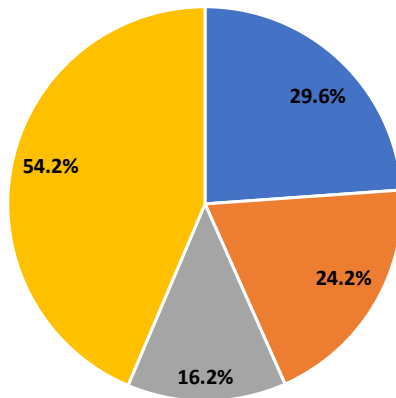
Households

There were 130,428 households in Orange County, New York, and in the three cities RECAP services the households amounted to 9,838 in Middletown; 10,268 in Newburgh; and 3,712 in Port Jervis. The average household size was 2.85 people in Orange County, New York, 2.8 in Middletown, 2.65 in Newburgh, and 2.28 in Port Jervis.

The American Community Survey (ACS) estimated there were 91,759 families in Orange County, New York reported area in 2020. In Middletown 6,303 households, 5,921 in Newburgh, and 1,837 in Port Jervis. These household figures include married-couples family unit, female headed households with children, single family households, and nonfamily households. Other nonfamily households made up most family types followed by married-couple families. (19)

It is a big change from the last census. The correlation of the COVID-19 pandemic might have to do with these statistics. Due to lock down orders during and social distancing during the Census process, many families and non-families were living in households together.

2020 - Orange County, New York - Types of Households



■ Other nonfamily households ■ People living alone ■ Other families ■ Married-couple families

Between October 1st, 2020 and September 30th, 2020, 20% of RECAP's 6228 individuals, 10.5 % lived alone, 11.7% were single-parent female-headed households and 11.7% were two parent households. (17)

KEY FINDINGS-CORE NEEDS

The areas below represent areas of need, concern and/or challenges in our community as demonstrated through community input.

COMMUNITY INPUT ON CORE AREA NEEDS

1. HOUSING
2. EMPLOYMENT
3. FOOD AND NUTRITION
4. TRANSPORTATION
5. CHILD CARE

CORE AREA 1 - HOUSING

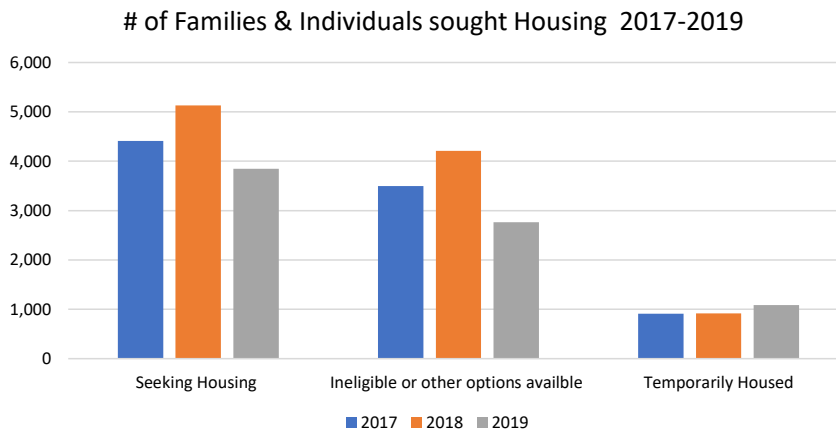
There are multiple factors that are considered when a family or an individual who is homeless needs temporary or permanent housing. These factors can include location, employment, schools (if children are involved), available temporary housing, transportation, access to healthcare, grocery stores, walkability and permanent housing options for stability. (20)

Housing issues were the dominant theme in the previous Census and Community Needs Assessment for both consumers, and providers. With the onset of COVID-19 pandemic and many job losses, many people and families have faced eviction in the Orange County, New York community. Additionally, affordable housing resources in Orange County, New York have been steadily on the decline for several years. A lack of affordable housing and rental housing remains

problematic in Orange County, New York in addition to rental costs being beyond financial reach for many working families and individuals. These factors have many residents in the Orange County, New York community working at minimum wage, on fixed income due to age and/or disabilities. (20)

Over the last three years 2017-2019 there has been a decrease the overall of individuals assisted with temporary housing. It can be because of an increase of transitional housing options available in Orange County, New York.

Number of Families & Individuals 2017-2019



OCDSS 2019 Annual Report listed the following reasons for homelessness in Orange County, New York. (20)

Top Reasons cited for homelessness:

- Lack of affordable housing
- Unemployment
- Low-paying employment
- Mental Illness
- Substance Abuse
- Discharge from medical institutions
- Domestic Violence
- Limited Life Skills

Even though, eviction was not listed as a reason for homelessness, many families become homeless after an eviction. In 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic the United States government initiated an Eviction Moratorium for homeowners and renters. In September of 2021 the new US Administration, President Biden and Vice President Harris extended the moratorium until January 15th, 2022. It consists of the following:

- \$100 million through September 2022 in rental assistance for very low- income tenants.
- \$39 million in Budget Authority (BA) through September 2023 to help refinance direct loans under the Single-Family Housing Loan Program and the Single - Family Housing Repair Loan program.
- \$500 million in Community Facilities Program funds to help rural hospitals and local communities broaden access to COVID-19 vaccines and food assistance. (21)

RECAP's Supportive Housing program provides targeted housing services residents who are potentially homeless veterans, elderly, disabled, struggling with substance use disorder and affected by domestic violence or in need of permanent housing. The goal of supportive housing and rental subsidy programs is to help individuals regain self-sufficiency. With the help of RECAP's case managers, clients develop goals and track progress and challenges to address social determinants of health. In addition, the case managers support the clients through social service navigation, replacing vital documents, or finding clothes for job interviews. The help given to the unemployed client and underemployed client ensures they receive a structure daily activity routine to focus on employment, self and family care, financial literacy, and education.

Another form of affordable housing assistance is through Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. The program is administered in Orange County, New York by PathStone. In 2020, Orange County, New York Section 8 Housing programs reported below this data. (22)

Section 8 Housing Programs

	Orange County, New York	New York
Subsidized Units	755	107,384
Occupied %	96.0%	91.0%
People Per Unit	1.4	2
People Total	1,042	1,080,368
Average Family Expenditure	\$386	\$463
Average HUD Expenditure Per Month	\$867	\$1,039
Household Income per year	\$16,769	\$19,268
Household income per year Per Person	\$11,725	\$9,461
% Households where wages are major source of income	14%	27%
% Households where welfare is Major source of income	1%	5%
% Households with other major sources of income	85%	66%
% of 2+ adults' w/children	2%	4%
% 1 adult w/children	16%	25%
% female head	76%	74%
% female head with children	16%	25%
% of disabled Head, Spouse, or Co-Head over 60 yrs. >	78%	85%
% of Head, Spouse, or Co -Head over 50 yrs. >	51%	71%
% Minority	48%	76%
% Hispanic	22%	36%
Average months on waiting list	-1	30
Average months since moved in	110	185

The waiting list for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program is a very useful tool to determine the need for units and to determine the demographic applying for assistance. The voucher program is currently closed and no longer accepting applications. Additionally, the waiting list is long and the numbers on past and current numbers do not reflect the need for rental assistance. The average waiting time from application to “move-in” is currently 110 months which is 9 years. These statistics are vital in assessing and projecting future affordable housing needs. Additionally, with the COVID-19 pandemic fewer people are moving and are staying put in the current living situations and with Eviction Moratorium in place fewer units are available.

In Orange County, New York there are 2 Housing Authorities serving the population in the area of 812 square miles. One of the agencies serves about 187,087 people in the 405 square miles of the housing authority office. In New York, Orange County, New York is ranked 33rd of the 62 counties in the Housing Authorities per capita, and 20th of 62 counties in Housing Authorities per square mile. (23)

Orange County Housing Authorities are local government agencies created to construct, own, operate, and manage public housing and other forms of subsidized housing for income eligible residents. Orange County, New York regulations establish Public Housing Authorities, and the local legislative body appoints the Orange Housing Board. (23)

As of December 2020, the chart below represents the Affordable housing programs in the area RECAP serves in Orange County, New York. You can see that in cities in Orange County, New York, the highest percentage of female in all cities and female with children are in Middletown and Newburgh.

Local Housing Assisted Housing and Programs (24)

Report Area	Program	Total Units	% Occupied	Total People	% Female Head of Household	% Female Head of Household w/ Children
Middletown city, NY						
Summary of all HUD Programs	1	792	91	1,573	83%	36%
Housing Choice Vouchers	3	687	90	1,385	84%	35%
811/PRAC	9	3	-4	-4	-4%	-4%
Project Based Section 8	5	102	96	185	84%	39%
Newburgh city, NY						
Summary of all HUD Programs	1	1,113	100	2,044	80%	37%
Public Housing	2	135	100	278	62%	32%
Housing Choice Vouchers	3	730	100	1390	86%	44%
Project Based Section 8	5	247	100	376	75%	23%
Port Jervis city, NY						
Summary of all HUD Programs	1	582	100	842	74%	25%
Public Housing	2	75	100	131	65%	17%
Housing Choice Vouchers	3	457	100	657	79%	32%
Project Based Section 8	5	50	100	54	61%	-1%

Owner/Renter Occupied 2020

	Middletown city NY	Port Jervis city, NY	Newburgh city, NY	Orange County, New York, NY
Total owner-occupied, mortgaged homes, 2020	950	1,183	2,035	59,959
Mortgage cost> 30% of household income	*1,509	*358	*751	22,765
Specific renter-occupied units, 2020*	4,449	1,784	6,969	41,975
Rent >30% of household income	2,734	*1,079	3,824	21,460
Median Monthly Housing Costs in 2020*				
Median Mortgage cost, 2020	\$1,995	\$1,681	\$1,824	\$2,329
Median Gross rent, 2020	\$1,284	\$940	\$1,139	\$1,294
Percent of Total				
Mortgage Cost>30% of household income	38.8%	36.6%	36.9%	38.0%
Rent Cost>30%of household income	*61.5%	*60.5%	*54.9%	51.1%

High Reliability: Data with coefficients of variation (CVs) < 12% are in black to indicate that the sampling error is relatively small.

Medium Reliability: Data with CVs between 12 & 40% are in orange to indicate that the values should be interpreted with caution.

Low Reliability: Data with CVs > 40% are displayed in red to indicate that the estimate is considered very unreliable. (25)

In the 2016-2020 period, Middletown, New York had the highest percent of owner-occupied households where >30% of household income was spent on mortgage costs (38.8%), Newburgh and Port Jervis were both closed second. In the same period of 2016-2020, Middletown had the highest percent of renter occupied households where >30% of the household income was spent on gross rent (61.5%), and Port Jervis was closed second at 60.5%. Newburgh was at 54.9%. Overall in the time period of 2016-2020, Orange County, New York had the highest estimated monthly mortgage costs for owner-occupied homes at an average of (\$2,329) and overall average within the United States had the lowest at (\$1,621). However, in the time period 2016-2020, Orange County had the highest estimated monthly rent for renter-occupied homes of one bedroom at (\$1,294) and Port Jervis had the lowest (\$940). (25)

Factors contributing to the cost burden of housing include the following:

- Cost of living continues to escalate, while low- income wages deteriorate in spite of increased minimum wages.
- Rents in the private sector continue to increase and/or remain out of reach for the low-income person
- Many rental units in the transportation exists, are seriously substandard. They remain unoccupied or are rented to the lowest income or those not eligible for any form of public housing assistance; new immigrants are part of this group, and thus are often forced in overcrowded, substandard and unsafe conditions

The National Low-Income Coalition reports each year on the amount of money a household must earn in order to afford a rental unit based on **Fair Market Rents** in the area and accepted limit of income for housing costs. In Orange County, New York, a single parent with one child would have to earn \$ 28.21 per hour for 40 hours per week to rent a two-bedroom apartment. Minimum wage in New York State as December 31, 2021 is \$15.00 hour. At this rate, the single parent would have to work well over 2 full -time jobs to cover rent alone.

Average Renter Hourly vs. Bedroom Units

Report Area	Average Renter Hourly Wage	Hour Wage 0 Bedrooms	Hourly Wage 1 Bedroom	Hourly Wage 2 Bedrooms	Hourly Wage 3 Bedrooms	Hourly Wage 4 Bedrooms
Orange County, New York, NY	\$11.99	\$20.92	\$22.31	\$28.21	\$35.92	\$40.33
New York	\$26.67	\$27.93	\$29.31	\$34.03	\$43.11	46.70

Data Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition: County, State. (26)

Fair market monthly rent 2019

Report Area	Fair Market Rent (Monthly) 0 Bedrooms	Fair Market Rent (Monthly) 1 Bedrooms	Fair Market Rent (Monthly) 2 Bedrooms	Fair Market Rent (Monthly) 3 Bedrooms	Fair Market Rent (Monthly) 4 Bedrooms
Orange County, New York, NY	\$1,088	\$1,160	\$1,467	\$1,868	\$2,097
New York	\$1,453	\$1,524	\$1,770	\$2,242	\$2,429

Data Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition: County, State. (26)

Orange County, New York had 144,264 housing units, and tenure owner occupied at 67.8% and 32.2% were renter occupied. An estimated 67.8% of the owner-occupied units had a mortgage and 32.2% did not have a mortgage. Homeowner vacancy rate was at 9.6% (2)

Vacancy rates lower than 5% indicated a tight market that typically inflates prices for sale and for rentals. A very low vacancy rate for both homeowners and renters indicates the demand for housing is high in the county. There is homeowner vacancy rate of 2.3 percent and 3.8 for rental vacancy rate.

Many of the vacant housing stock is not up to code or well-maintained, especially older home located in the cities. Many of the vacant properties in the three cities of Orange County, New York have Zombie properties. Zombie properties is a house the homeowners have abandoned, typically in the face of a foreclosure action. With no occupant to perform basic maintenance, these homes can fall into a serious disrepair. The negative impact these properties create can last for years while the community waits for the property to be foreclosed and sold to a new owner. Another issue is lead-based paint (LBP), which was used in home until 1978. Not all homes used LBP in all of the homes and it was used less during the 1960s and 1970s, the possibility of dangerous lead levels still exists in older homes built before 1939. Additionally, other components in many homes need updating like energy efficient heating systems, insulated doors and windows. Many of these houses lacking these updates are homes of families with low income.

There is a population of unhoused people in Orange County, New York. Getting accurate data on the homeless population can be challenging. Several organizations gather information about the homeless population using different methods that naturally duplicate count of individuals and leave some homeless population uncounted for. In the 2020 Point in Time Count (PIT) it states the below numbers, which reflect on the statistics of Newburgh and Middletown only. It includes both households, per person counts, summary of all other population and summary by race. (27)

Both Households and Per Person Counts

Report Area	Included CoC Counties	Household Without Children	Household At Least 1 Adult 1 Child	Household with Only Children	Persons Without Children	Persons At Least 1 Adult 1 Child	Persons with Only Children
Orange County, New York	No Data	263	60	1	263	207	1
New York	No Data	14,076	3,616	217	14,331	11,800	219

Transitional Housing Homeless Count

Report Area	Included CoC Counties	Household Without Children	Household At Least 1 Adult 1 Child	Household with Only Children	Persons Without Children	Persons At Least 1 Adult 1 Child	Persons with Only Children
Orange County, New York	No Data	10	14	0	10	46	0
New York	No Data	912	303	29	929	916	32

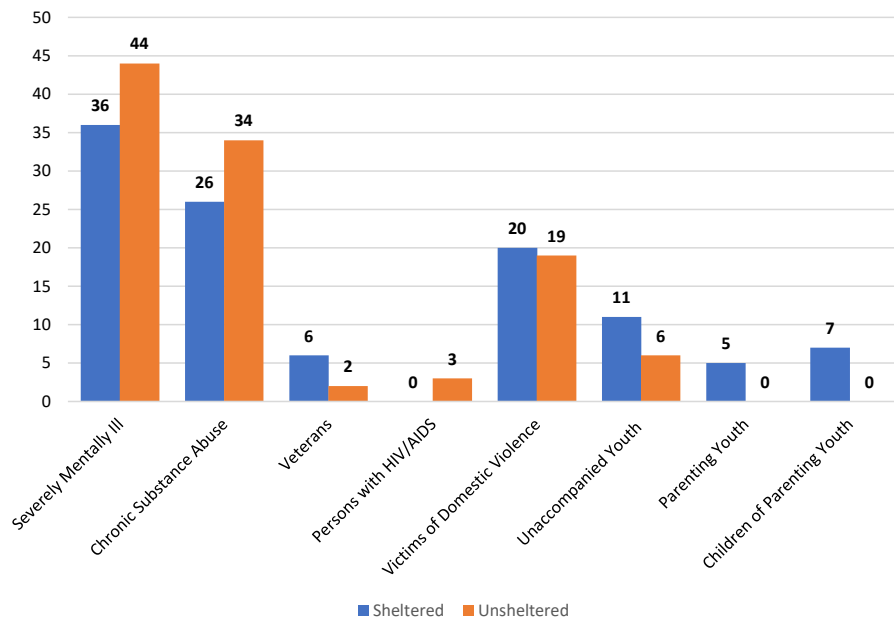
Data Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Emergency Shelter Homeless Count

Report Area	Included CoC Counties	Household Without Children	Household At Least 1 Adult 1 Child	Household with Only Children	Persons Without Children	Persons At Least 1 Adult 1 Child	Persons with Only Children
Orange County, New York	No Data	114	21	5	114	67	5
New York	No Data	4,000	1,075	45	4,170	3,575	46

Data Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Summary of All Other Populations Reported - 2020



RECAP's Head Start Program provided six homeless families with child care and assistance finding permanent housing during 2019 to present program year. (17) RECAP Inc., has provided 165 families including 33 homeless veterans with permanent housing from October 2019 thru September 2021. (17)

LEVEL OF NEED AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **COMMUNITY: NEED MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS**
 - Landlords required to bring apartments/homes up to code
 - Create new housing through public and private development
 - Create new housing to accommodate the special needs population including seniors
- **AGENCY: NEED TO IMPROVE MORE PROPERTIES; NEED TO PROVIDE MORE COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES TO SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION**
 - Improve the quality and conditions of older and deteriorating housing
 - Increase the number of homes served to produce higher levels of energy efficiency
 - Educated tenants on landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities
 - Provide first time buyer information to families
 - Train all agency staff on serving special needs population
- **FAMILY: NEED SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
 - Improve credit worthiness
 - Develop budgeting skills
 - Save for down payment
 - Obtain living wage employment
 - Address social determinants of health

CORE AREA 2 - EMPLOYMENT

2020 Statistics

188,085 Labor Force	182,499 Employed	5,586 Unemployed
3.0% Unemployment Rate: May 2022	\$1,060 Average Weekly Wage	34.4 Minutes Average Commute

In May 2022 Orange County, New York's labor force status was 188,085 and the employed individuals were 182,499 and 5,586 were unemployed with a rate of 3.0% of unemployment for the county and the average weekly wage was \$1,081. (28) The average commute in Orange County, New York, takes about 32.5 minutes. Orange County, New York 9.95% of the commuter have "super commutes" in excess of 90 minutes. (1) The most common jobs groups, by number of people living in Orange County, New York are Management, business, science, and arts occupations (37.8%), Sales and Office occupations (22.6%), and Service occupation (18.9%). (29) The most specialized compared to other counties are the unusually high numbers of residents working as Law Enforcement (2.84 times higher than expected), Fire Fighting & Prevention, & Other Protective Service Workers including Supervisors (1.4 times) and Healthcare Support Occupations (1.36 times). (1)

The unemployment rate was about the same from 2018 (3.1%) to 2019 (3.3%). However, a drastic increase in October 2020 of 5.8% occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the massive job losses and businesses shutdowns due to the pandemic. As you see from the chart below, the data shows an improvement in the unemployment rate due to people in the community going back to work and business reopening and hiring.

Unemployment Rates

Unemployment Report Area	November 2017	November 2018	November 2019	November 2020	November 2021
Orange County, New York, NY	4.3%	3.1%	3.3%	5.8%	3.7%
New York	4.3%	3.5%	3.4%	8.3%	5.5%
United States	4.0%	3.5%	3.3%	6.4%	3.9%

Data Source: United States Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2021

There are many factors in finding employment in Orange County, New York include: lack of experience or skillset for opportunities available, childcare challenges and lack of transportation in the three major cities.

In discussing the barriers to employment with staff and community members the main barrier to achieving employment identified is safe, affordable, flexible childcare. One parent from RECAP's Head Start expressed, "I had to quit my job and couldn't take a job offered to me because I don't have reliable childcare for the working shift I was working or going to work." The lack of affordable childcare challenges full time employment. Parents describe working only to pay for childcare. Over a certain income, day care subsidies are not available creating a situation in which affording childcare is not possible. This causes parents to make the decision to leave the workforce. Lastly, flexible day care, for parents who work non-traditional hours is rare and the cost inaccessible. In addition to these barriers, there are many individuals who are employed but are underemployed (wages not paid to the full skills and abilities) or working multiple job or two part-time jobs to obtain more wages to be sustainable in making ends meet. This shows the need for more well-paying full-time employment need in the community. The opportunity for more training in different skillsets or continuous retraining. Even though the minimum wage in New York has increased to 15.00 hour, many of the jobs available in fast-food or hospitality are part-time employment which still gives an individual the need to make more wages to sustain their living wage of bills and expenses. Even at full time employment at \$15 an hour the annual salary of \$31,000 does not allow an individual or family to afford housing in Orange County, New York.

The chart below demonstrates that nearly 5% of 16 to 64-year-old residing in the three cities did not work. There was a decrease in people that did not work between 2018 to 2019.

Labor Participation 2016-2020 (2)

	Middletown city, NY	Port Jervis city, NY	Newburgh city, NY	Orange County, New York, NY
Total population 16 yrs. >. 2016-2020	21,725	6,790	21,751	188,580
People that did not work	8,209	3,677	8,166	107,943
People that did not work, %	37.8%	45.8%	37.5%	36.4%
People that did not work, change in percentage points, 2011-2015	3.8%	6.7%	2.5%	2%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1-year Statistics 2016-2020

As of May 2022, the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics states the overall Orange County, New York labor force of 188,085 that 182,499 are currently employed with the current rate of unemployment of 3.0%. (28)

Individuals and families receiving TANF, SNAP, FA, SNA family or SNA Individual can improve their necessary training and skills in the Orange County, New York Employment and Training (E&T) programs. These programs provide an opportunity for individuals who work in low-wage jobs to advance their careers, and to obtain additional skill to secure available jobs. Even with the onset of COVID-19 this program has over 5,000 introductory courses, to help build skills and prepare individuals for their next job position or career. (30)

<http://orangeworks.metrixlearning.com/>

The benefits of these courses:

- Free of charge
- The ability to manage your own online training
- Flexible, self-paced learning of essential workplace skills
- Courses to train for industry-recognized certifications
- Certifications for your resume presentation for new interview talking points
- Professional development

RECAP's Workforce Development program in Support Services provides many areas of job training, resume building, interview skills, dress for success, employment follow up and evaluation.

Industry Wages by Sector 2016-2020

Location	Management, business, science, and arts	Service Occupation	Sales and Office occupation	Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	Production, Transportation, and material moving occupations
Orange County, New York	\$68,100	\$27,205	\$34,383	\$53,213	\$34,353
Hudson Valley	\$57,821	\$22,633	\$32,527	\$41,585	\$32,965
NY State	\$69,229	\$25,259	\$36,125	\$44,845	\$32,952

Currently listed in the *Directory of Major Employers* by the Orange County Partnership, there are 354 major employers employing 25 or more workers. (31) Each job requires skills and education that is compatible with the occupation and is reflected in the wage scale. Some of the jobs are minimum wage jobs and part-time with no benefits.

During the period of 2016-2020 the demographics characteristics demonstrated that many of RECAP's consumers need basic educational skills. Of the total consumers served during these years fifty- seven percent (21.89%) do not have a high school or GED. Many of the consumers are Hispanic/Latino who do not speak fluent English. (17) Employers who are selling skilled workers in all areas of service in their business needs often don't match the unemployed workers skills or language barriers. As a result, RECAP, Inc., has about 10% of their consumers become day laborers who are paid in cash with no benefits. The workers usually wait in the streets or at major hardware store locations to be picked up for construction, farm or landscaping jobs where they work seasonally and/or weather permitting. Undocumented women clean houses and offices and get paid in cash. With these practices many illegitimate employers exploit these workers and do not have protection under labor laws such as Minimum Wage, Overtime, Wrongful Termination, Breaks, Day of Rest, Paid Family leave or Medical/Health benefits.

Another major factor that impacts employment decisions for families is the cost of childcare. Individuals and families have to weigh the cost for quality childcare-along with other expenses like commute time, taxes, transportation costs and time away from the children; families unfortunately find themselves measuring whether it pays for both parents to work, and this can lead to forcing unemployment on many single individuals with young children, especially for single mothers.

Unemployment has costs to a society, and it is more than just financial. Unemployed individuals not only lose income to their households, but individuals and families face challenges to their physical and mental health wellness. Societal costs of high unemployment include higher crime in communities, Employment paying living wage salaries with benefits can keep families self-sufficient. Employment without living wage salaries can make a family in debt and trying to make ends in all areas of household expenses.

LEVEL OF NEED AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **COMMUNITY: NEED TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**
 - Transportation. A reliable public transit system for individuals who can access to and from work that is affordable and reliable to get to one city to another
 - Funding educational and vocational. Better-educated individuals can access higher paying jobs.
 - Explore dependent care assistance programs, subsidies and employer-provided backup care
 - *Improve access to affordable, safe child care*
- **AGENCY: NEED TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION/OPPORTUNITIES AWARENESS IN ALL AGENCY PROGRAMS**
 - Use outreach services to increase access for marginalized communities
 - *Develop workforce training opportunities in house i.e. facilities, weatherization for clients and the community*
 - Develop partnerships with private industry employers
 - Inform all families with children about tax credits
 - Inform all families with children about child care subsidies and help with applications for subsidies
- **FAMILY: NEED TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT SKILLS**
 - Enhance basic skills as needed for employment

CORE AREA 3 - FOOD AND NUTRITION

Though many of us may not realize the grave disparities that exist in our own communities, individuals face hunger in every county and congressional district in New York. They can be our neighbors, kids in our children's school classes - the examples can go on and on.

Food insecurity refers to USDA's measure of absence of access, at times, of sufficient food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or the inadequate or uncertain availability of nutritionally suitable foods. Food insecure households are not essentially food insecure all the time. Food insecurity many reflect a household's need to do between important basic needs, like housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally suitable foods.

In New York individuals facing hunger is 1 in 9 people. Nearly 1 in 6 children face hunger in their households and suffer from food hardship. The average cost of a meal in New York is \$3.31. The data is from Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap study. (32)

Field Code Changed

In 2020 the Social Determinants of Health topic place 5 place-based domains:

1. Economic Stability
2. Education
3. Health and Health Care
4. Neighborhood and Built Environment
5. Social and Community Context

Food insecurity is the key issue under the domain of Economic Stability domain. It defines food insecurity as the disruption of food intake or eating patterns because of lack of money and other resources. (33)

Field Code Changed

The raw data below states in 2019 the overall Orange County, New York food insecurity.



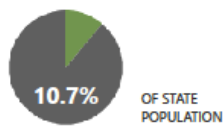
New York



2019 OVERALL FOOD INSECURITY & FOOD COST IN THE US

STATE FOOD INSECURITY RATE

FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE: 2,090,550



10.9% NATIONAL FOOD INSECURITY RATE

ESTIMATED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE



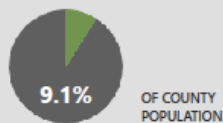
31% Above SNAP, Other Nutrition Programs
threshold of 200% poverty
69% Below SNAP, Other Nutrition Programs
threshold of 200% poverty

Average Meal Cost	State	National
	\$3.31	\$3.13

Orange County, New York

COUNTY FOOD INSECURITY RATE

FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE: 34,520



ESTIMATED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE



31% Above SNAP, Other Nutrition Programs
threshold of 200% poverty
69% Below SNAP, Other Nutrition Programs
threshold of 200% poverty

Average Meal Cost	County	National
	\$3.62	\$3.13

Hunger exists in every corner of the United States, but as Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap study shows, food insecurity looks different from one county to the next. In addition to providing data about the prevalence of food insecurity at the local level, Map the Meal Gap estimates the share of food insecure individuals who are income-eligible for federal antihunger programs and provides local variations in food costs.

The study finds that many food insecure individuals do not qualify for federal nutrition programs and must rely on charitable food assistance, suggesting that complementary programs and strategies are necessary to reach food insecure individuals at different income levels. By providing information about hunger at the local level, Map the Meal Gap can help policymakers and service providers identify strategies to best reach those in need of assistance.

Visit map.feedingamerica.org for more information.
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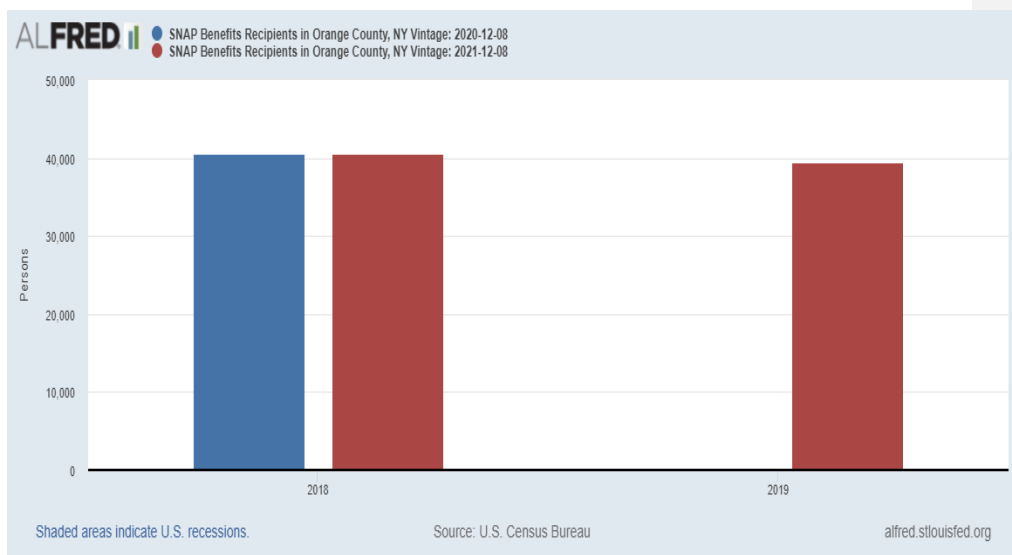
Data source: Feeding America, 2021

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and to present, vulnerabilities were revealed in the Hudson Valley food system. The news was full of images of massive cars and individuals on food pantry lines. Food banks, local governments, and other agency who help their community were overwhelmed with the sudden rise in need.

The main cause was not only the cost of meals but the supply chain that made many people in the Orange County, New York to struggle to find and afford food. Local and non-local processing plants temporarily closed due to COVID-19. Many farmers in Hudson Valley had to discard because their customers, restaurants, hotels and schools were also closed and unable to purchase the food. Farmers donated what they could but there were times the food spoiled before getting the chance to get to a donation site for distribution due to lack of drivers to deliver the goods.

The pandemic illustrated the vulnerability in the food supply chain and the affect it has on individuals and families in need. Orange County, New York has programs available for individuals and households who are struggling with food insecurity. The programs that help are:

- SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps)-
 - Supplements low-income household into to reduce hunger and malnutrition.
 - In 2018, Orange County, New York SNAP Benefits recipients were 40,592
In 2019, Orange County, New York SNAP Benefits recipients were 39,434
Children and youth receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
 - Orange County, New York ages birth to 17 years of age:
18,703 and percentage of 19.1 (2019)
 - A 2.85 % decrease from 2018 to 2019 in overall recipients on SNAP.
In 2020, with SNAP assistance given to many during the COVID -19 pandemic those number have increase. The data is not out on those raw numbers, however SNAP had food benefits from increases in benefits amount and to P-EBT benefits (pandemic-SNAP benefits for school age children who receive free school lunches under the National School Lunch Act).
 - In January 2022 the number of persons receiving SNAP benefits in Orange County, New York was 16,781 and average benefits per household was \$571.88. (5)



Data Source: Fred Economic Data, Since 1991 (34)

- WIC (Women, Infant, and Children)
 - Supplements women, infants, and children with a federal or state program to ensure proper nutrition for poor mothers and their children. The WIC provides nutritious food, nutrition information, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care and social services for millions of low-income families and plays a crucial role in improving lifetime health for women, their infants and young mothers. It additionally helps birth outcomes and reduces health care costs. (35)

In 2019-2020, 88 of RECAP's Head Start families received WIC. (17)

- Free or Reduce School Breakfast/Lunch Program
 - All schools participating in the federally assisted National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program must make free and reduced-price meals available to all eligible children. All schools and institutions participating in the free milk and Special Milk Program must make free milk available to eligible. No person shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from

Field Code Changed

participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under the Child Nutrition Programs [7 CFR 15.1] (36)

Orange County, New York Free Reduced School Lunch Program K-12

Report Area	Total Student Enrollment (January, 2019)	Number of Students Eligible	Percent of Students Eligible
Orange County, New York	73,679	47,686	64.72%
NY State	3,058,426	2,286,046	74.75%

Data Source: New York State Education Department. Source geography: County

Free and Reduced Lunch Program by School

School Food Authority	Enrollment	Free Eligible		Reduced Eligible		Free and Reduced
		#	%	#	%	
Chester UFSD	1,047	270	25.8%	53	5.1%	30.9%
Congregation Bnei Yoel School #38	2,050	2,050	100%	0	0%	100%
Congregation Mesifita Ohr Hatalmud	68	13	19.1%	6	8.8%	27.9%
Cornwall CSD	3,129	586	18.7%	98	3.1%	21.9%
Florida UFSD	800	207	25.9%	37	4.6%	30.5%
Goshen CSD	2,883	654	22.7%	98	3.4%	26.1%
Greenwood Lake UFSD	482	130	27%	27	5.6%	32.6%
Highland Falls CSD	999	250	25%	73	7.3%	32.3%
Middletown City SD	7,473	7,069	94.6%	0	0%	94.6%
Minisink Valley CSD	3,701	840	22.7%	164	4.4%	27.1%
Monroe-Woodbury CSD	6,756	1,821	27%	304	4.5%	31.5%
Newburgh City SD	11,427	10,834	94.8%	0	0%	94.8%
Pine Bush CSD	5,066	2,032	40.1%	458	9%	49.2%
Port Jervis City SD	2,438	1,854	76%	24	1%	77%
Sheri Torah Larkin	4,900	4,900	100%	0	0%	100%
Uta Of Kiryas Joel - Talmud Torah	9,990	9,990	100%	0	0%	100%
Valley CSD (Montgomery)	4,183	1,279	30.6%	208	5%	35.5%
Warwick Valley CSD	1,219	198	16.2%	28	2.3%	18.5%
Washingtonville CSD	3,905	889	22.8%	181	4.6%	27.4%
West Point Elementary School	1,163	27	2.3%	34	2.9%	5.2%
Orange County, New York Total	73,679	45,893	62.3%	1,793	2.4%	64.7%
New York State Total	3,058,426	2,239,847	73.2%	46,199	1.5%	74.7%

Data Source: New York State Education Department: Source geography: County

Community Based Food Pantries (RECAP)

- In the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region food pantry directory they list over 25 pantries in the county. This is an incomplete list. Newburgh Urban Food and Farm (NUFFI) was awarded a grant in 2021 by the USDA to map a comprehensive list of food pantries. This will allow for a more streamlined process of food delivery and accessibility for the community.

RECAP Inc. provides nutrition assistance to the community in which they serve. A food pantry is place for individuals and families to get food assistance in times when they are unable to afford food. Food pantries can offer both shelf stable and perishable food product to clients. The amount of food provided and the frequency in which you can get assistance vary by location. One element in our RECAP food pantry we striving to stock more healthy food items to offer our consumers a more nutritionally balanced meals, however donation have many storage and delivery constraints for perishable food, so the problem is to get these more nutritionally base food items like dairy and produce to the community. Additionally, through a partnership with local vendors RECAP receives breads and cakes as donations and they are also provided to the community.

- Soup Kitchen
 - A soup kitchen is an establishment which offers meals to the needy for free or at very low cost. The Guild of St. Margaret Soup Kitchen in Middletown, New York provides a hot, nutritious, well-balanced meal (breakfast or lunch) seven days a week for lunch and five days a week for breakfast to every that is welcomed, without question or qualification. During the COVID-19 pandemic this agency did not skip a beat and had been providing meals through it all to the community.

In conclusion, Orange County, New York is ranked 50th in New York State with 14.5% of children who are food insecure. Food insecurity continues to be a challenge when addressing the social determinants of health in Orange County, New York. For individuals and families living at or below the poverty line accessing food can be difficult and the expense can oftentimes leave families making difficult choices to feed a hungry family. (37)

Field Code Changed

LEVEL OF NEED AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **COMMUNITY: NEED TO INCREASE FOOD SUBSIDIES FOR THE POOR**
 - Campaign for the invisible poor and hungry
 - Expand eligibility rules for SNAP
 - Develop community gardens for sustainability on food system.
 - Healthier and approachable food options in School Lunch and Breakfast Programs
- **AGENCY: NEED TO INFORM ABOUT NUTRITION**
 - Train staff on nutrition education
 - Train staff on how to maximize available food resources
 - Train staff on eligibility requirements related to food programs available
 - Inform all clientele about healthy eating and budgeting food expenses
 - Develop partnerships with area nutrition programs and utilize the contacts
 - Help clients with applications on food assistance programs
 - *Create a healthy food pantry*
 - *Create a mobile farmers market to provide fruits and vegetables to the cities.*
 - *Develop cooking classes at the food pantry*
- **FAMILY: NEED TO LEARN ABOUT HEALTHY EATING**
 - Attend nutritional workshops provided by RECAP and other programs
 - Complete all food related applications to support the family
 - Learn how to preserve and use food to help sustainability in their home pantry shelf life.

CORE AREA 4 - TRANSPORTATION

People with limited incomes in urban and suburban communities struggle to find reliable transportation. It becomes a barrier for these individuals to trying to build a better life is the cost of reliable and efficient transportation.

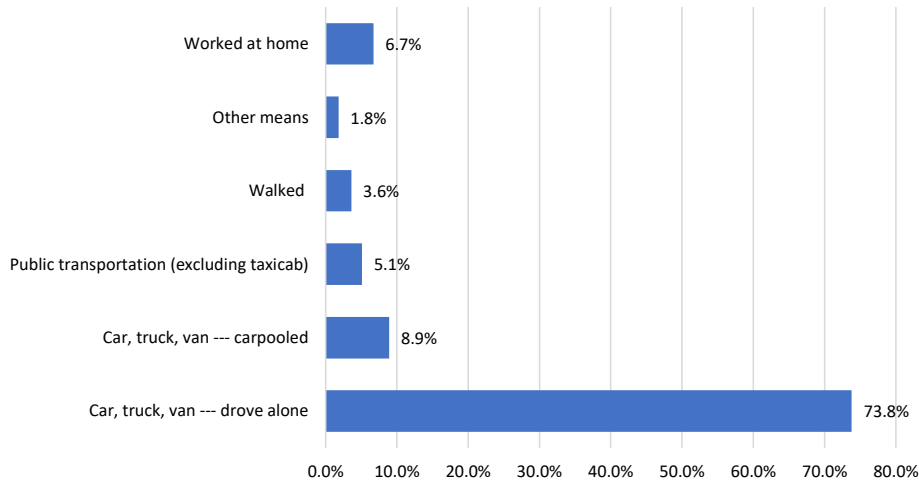
Even though the United States is prosperous, the wealth is not uniformly. Poverty is a great problem in many cities across U.S. Communities outside central cities, rely on an automobile to have access to jobs, medical healthcare, food shopping. However, about 20 percent of households in the United States making less than \$25,000 lack a car. In Orange County, New York in 2019 the percentage of households without a car was 9.8% compared to 8.6% for overall households in the United States. (38)

Access to jobs, health care, and other services can be expanded through transportation policies and programs and technology, but these approaches need to be affordable and effective. This is a certain challenge in many Orange County, New York areas. The unreliability or non-existing available transportation in the major cities like Middletown, Newburgh, and Port Jervis is a disadvantage to many individuals in the community. The elderly population have issues getting access to health care, family or friends. The working-class community have barriers to get to work and need to spend majority of their income on taxis, Ubers, or Lyft car services. In many cases the cost of a trip of a car service the amount of two or three hours of pay for the day.

RECAP conducted a focus group with a senior community in Newburgh senior housing building. One of the questions was, "Did you have difficulty getting transportation to and from destinations (Doctors, Stores)?" We had 37% yes responses and the follow up question specifically on what areas. The information gathered stated no reliable medical transport ambulate services provided by their Health insurance (Medicaid, Medicare, or Private). The unavailability of taxi or car service willing to help elderly into their cars if they have a rolling cart or wheelchair and the expense of taxi money does not fit into their budget.

In Orange County, New York, an estimated 75 percent (74.8%) of workers drove to work alone while 9 percent (8.8%) carpoolled. Their average commute time was over 33 minutes to get to work.

Orange County, New York Commutation Mode by Percent of Workers 16 and over 2016-2020



Data Source: United States Census Bureau 2020

The geographic layout of Orange County, New York demonstrates that transportation is a major concern. Other forms of transportation are necessary since many families do not have a vehicle. According to the 2016-2020 American Survey 5-year Estimates, 4.7% of the population in Orange County, New York do not have vehicles available to them. Mainly in the cities who have a greater rate of people without vehicles; in Newburgh, 17.7%, in Port Jervis 6.0% do not have vehicles do not have vehicles and in Middletown. (39)

Bus transit service in Orange County, New York is provided through regional, local, paratransit and dial-a-bus services. The fixed route bus service is of three main types: a) regional inter-county service including commuter service, b) intra-county transportation, and c) local services in major population centers. However, the local routes are largely limited to services within the retail areas of the cities if Newburgh, Middletown and Port Jervis.

- Commuter Bus services typically provide service between Orange County, New York and NYC, although some relatively minor services to connecting counties also fall into this category.

- Fixed Route bus services are operated in small urban areas, such as the City of Newburg and Middletown
- Rural Dial-A-Bus services are non-traditional demand responsive operations that primarily serve the non-urbanized portions of the county
- Para transit services are provided to eligible elderly and disabled residents to the portions of the County that are covered by Fixed Route service in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act.

Orange County, New York does not have a unified county-wide transit system. The Fixed and Dial-A-Ride services function within their respective Towns and Cities, with connections to adjacent municipalities in some instances. Commuter services typically do not provide inter-municipal service. Short Line, an inter-city carrier, provides significant local inter-municipal service, but not to all communities.

Many essential services like Social Services office, Social Security office or Department of Motor Vehicles and all the government offices are located outside the city limits and not accessible by public transportation. The residents need to rely on costly means of transportation such as taxicabs and car service to get to these offices. The transportation is unreliable, which makes them late for or miss vital appointments. In both cases the limited incomes of individuals and families are adversely affected. Public transportation impacts workers who are unable to afford their own car because they cannot afford to purchase, lease, maintain and insure a vehicle on minimum wage. Depending on unreliable public transportation is their only choice.

Transportation being inaccessible and expensive is very disadvantageous to people who need transportation to get a job and keep a job. Transportation is a vital tool for individuals and families increasing self-sufficiency to obtain and maintain employment. Safe, reliable and affordable transportation is a benefit for the entire community.

LEVEL OF NEED AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **COMMUNITY: NEED TO CREATE A COUNTY-WIDE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**
 - Improve and increase transportation access to jobs
 - Provide incentives to attract private business to offer transportation vouchers to low-income workers
- **AGENCY: NEED TO EXPAND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO CLIENTS**
 - Explore transportation opportunities that already are available to consumers within the County
 - Train staff on the transportation opportunities that already are available to consumers within the County
 - Inform consumers about available transportation in the County
 - Partner with programs that currently provide transportation
 - Explore resources for low cost automobile purchase
 - Provide financial literacy information on budgeting
- **FAMILY: NEED TO INCREASE ACCESS TO RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION**
 - Learn to budget for transportation costs
 - Use accessible transportation costs
 - Learn about transportation opportunities that are available

CORE AREA 5 - Childcare

Child care is a vital need for any community to thrive financially and to enhance the development of children. A parent or parents of children need reliable child care to maintain a sustainable financial household. Many people living in poverty in the Orange County, New York, cannot afford or cannot find a full day (8:00am – 6:00pm) or non-traditional hours including nights and weekends child care facility or licensed individual to care for their child or children while they are working. Affordable child care is an issue due to income gap or levels needed to qualify for such programs. Even with a subsidy child care assistance, cost still have a significant impact on a family's budget.

Weekly Child- care Subsidy Market Rates - Orange County, New York, effective June 3,2022 (61)

	Family and In-Home Child Care					
	Day Care Center	School Age Child Care	Group/ Family Child Care	Standard	Enhanced	Group
Infant - FT	\$336	\$0	\$275	\$179	\$193	\$0
Toddler – FT	\$314	\$0	\$268	\$174	\$188	\$0
Pre-School -FT	\$293	\$293	\$250	\$163	\$175	\$220
School Age – FT	\$258	\$258	\$250	\$163	\$175	\$194

States per payment rates for child care providers who care for children receiving child care assistance. The payment rate is a ceiling on the amount the state will pay providers, and provider will be paid that rate if the provider charges private-paying parents a fee that is equal to or greater than the rate. If the provider charges private-paying parents a fee that is below the payment rate, the state will pay the provider an amount equal to the private -pay fee.

All children should have equal access to quality child care. From the moment a child is born, children start the process of learning and developing. It is crucial to begin early child development process for a positive children environment and mental and sensory development.

As a community, establishing conditions that promote educational achievement for children is very important. It should be start with prenatal care and continue to the early learning years. The availability of high-quality preschool programs for children will help set the stage for future skill development, well-being and learning – particularly for those from low income households. Even though the Head Start state funded program expanded since 1990s and an increase of preschool and kindergarten is available to many children, many children are continued to be left out. Many 3-year-old children from low income families are not taking advantage of attending these programs. (62)

Field Code Changed

According to the Census in 2020 there were 26,272 between the ages of 5 and 9 years old residing in Orange County, New York, the available child care facilities or family day cares are only 209 in the area. (63) There is a severe child care shortage for the county. Low-income children are in competition with middle- and upper-income children for limited child care space.

A “child care desert” is defined as a census tract with at least 50 children under the age of 5 years, where there is either no child care at all or more than 3 children for every available slot. Orange County, New York rate of child care desert is 68% is the highest is Mid-Hudson Region. (63)

Number of Regulated Child Care Programs in Orange County, New York, NY – October 2021

Child Care Type	Orange County, New York
Day Care Centers	72
Group Family Day Care Home	73
Family Day Care Homes	25
School Age Child Care Programs	39
Total:	209

Capacity of Regulated Child Care Programs by Type-October 2021

Child Care Type	Orange County, New York
Day Care Centers	5,834
Infant	508
Toddler	849
Pre-School	3,654
Group Family Day Care Home	1,144
Family Day Care Homes	199
School Age Child Care Programs	1853
Total	14,041

In conclusion, the lack of accessible and affordable child care in communities can be a huge obstacle to employment, education, and training. Not having enough or adequate child care can also be a major barrier to families becoming economically self-sufficient.

LEVEL OF NEED AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **COMMUNITY: NEED TO EXPAND CHILD CARE RESOURCES**
 - Raise income wages for child care workers to living wage
 - Campaign for additional child care resources
 - Create non-traditional child care hours
- **AGENCY: NEED TO EXPAND HOURS OF CARE AND AGES OF CARE**
 - Partner with other child care centers
 - Expand Head Start to wrap around care
 - Expand to Early Head Start
 - Provide summer care
 - Help families apply for child care subsidies
 - Inform families about quality care
 - Provide child care for staff
- **FAMILY: NEED TO ACCESS CHILD CARE**
 - Look for additional resource for child care – non- traditional care
 - Apply for child care subsidies
 - Apply for QUALITYstarsNY child care programs

Additional Focus Areas

Behavioral Health

Understanding the relation between poverty and behavioral health matters can help legislators and community leaders who create policies to improve mental health, reduce substance use and thereby reduce poverty in our communities.

Communities have always had to address behavioral health issues. However, there has been a noted increase in mental health and substance use issues throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Isolation with the lockdown, death of family or friends because of the virus has created an increase in behavioral health issues. It manifests itself with loneliness, anxiety, depression and may self-medicate with drugs and alcohol. Poverty is a factor in healthy or unhealthy behavioral health as access to resources and programming may be an issue. Additionally, an individual's place of employment may not allow, or pay for, time off to address these issues.

On a family level, poverty itself can cause stressors such as: food insecurity, housing (homelessness), and not having enough income. These stressors can lead to an increase of behavioral health problems in parents and may lead to child neglect and abuse causing negative effects on the child(ren) mental well-being and could be the start of a vicious cycle.

On an individual level, poverty leads to physical responses such as high blood pressure or a rise in cortisol levels. Some of these long physical responses and exposures to poverty can result in disruptions in brain functioning, which can lead to long-term physical and mental health issues.

Individuals struggling with behavioral health issues are often homeless or placed in group homes or apartments with structured programming and close living quarters with other people. Mental illness and substance use disorder can interfere with a person's ability to comply with rules, keep the home in order, get along with other or meet lease requirements. Nonetheless, there are different types of housing that can provide the services, support and affordability that is needed. Orange County, New York has networks of community mental health agencies, the local housing authority, social service agency, and mental health or housing advocacy organization working together to try to solve the housing dilemma for special needs groups.

(45)

Field Code Changed

LEVEL OF NEED AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **COMMUNITY: NEED TO SUPPORT AND MENTAL WELLNESS LIVING**
 - Educate individuals and families on taking care of their behavioral health.
 - Campaign and with local legislators on the need of behavioral health wellness and support increased access to health insurance and lower prescription costs
 - Provide incentives to attract behavioral health professionals to Orange County, New York area
 - Educate individuals and families the effect of behavioral health on the children with several different issues; substance addiction, domestic violence, not treated mental disorders
- **AGENCY: NEED TO SUPPORT CLIENTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS**
 - Apply for grants for additional funding to support behavioral health programming
 - Require all direct staff to obtain an FDC (Family Development Credential) training
 - Train all agency staff about resources within the community and how to access them
 - Train all agency staff to identify clients in need of mental health support
 - Train staff in trauma informed care
- **FAMILY: NEED TO ADDRESS FAMILY MENTAL WELLNESS**
 - Attend workshops and online webinars for wellness initiatives and learn about stress and depression trigger
 - Work with RECAP program staff to find local community and agency help
 - Join community activities for social interaction; gym, workshops, craft classes, cooking classes

Medical Healthcare

High-quality health care helps prevent diseases and improve quality of life. Communities should focus on improving health care quality and making sure all people get the health care services individuals in their district need. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the inequities of healthcare access. Addressing behavioral health concurrently with the social determinants of health are vital to healthy communities. Communities should include addressing structural racism and inequities and how it, with other determinants, impacts a person's ability to achieve health equity and address them appropriately. (47)

Field Code Changed

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are conditions in the environments where individuals are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

RECAP works to address the social determinants of health in our community. Outreach and education allow people to participate in activities to help them understand the challenges of living at or below the poverty line. Throughout the Hudson Valley, RECAP will engage communities in Poverty Simulations and/or Hunger Banquets to simulate and demonstrate what it could look and feel like to struggle with little or no income. These exercises help to build empathy and provide information as well as engage to community in reducing poverty by providing action steps for them to engage in.

To ensure quality healthcare for all communities in Orange County, New York, especially the children and elderly, insurance coverage is important factor. People without health insurance are less likely to get access to medical services. Having health insurance increases the chances of getting adequate health care and health monitoring. It prevents individuals from advancing to severe conditions and getting to be more expensive to treat. Orange County, New York has several programs, such as Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program, these programs help provide low and no-cost insurance to children who qualify. (47)

The population of noninsured individuals is highest within the unemployed and the second highest in employed individuals not employed. Can it be the part time workers or the workers in industry under 100 employees who are not able to obtain insurance for their family who are not able to be insured to maintain adequate health care.

Access to primary care is important for chronic disease management, preventative care, and early detection of disease. With not having access to health insurance, shortage of providers, the lack of transportation, and the lack of diverse competent physicians it can become an obstacle to retrieving consistent primary care services. Orange County, New York overall in 2016-2020 had a percentage of 4.13% of insured individuals. (2)

Field Code Changed

Health care usage as emergencies, appointment with primary care provider, or urgent care facility is key for proper care for an individual's health wellness. Emergency room care is the

highest among the uninsured population. However, with the implementation of the American Care Act insurance expansion in 2014 the number of persons using hospital room emergency health care as a primary source of medical care decrease. (49) The main health care management for individuals and families is having a primary care provider for steady health assessments and wellness visits. Urgent care visit is categorized by the American Academy of Pediatrics as “health care provided as a walk-in, no-appointment basis for acute illness or injury that is not life or limb threatening and is either beyond the scope or availability of the typical primary care practice or retail clinic”. (50)

Field Code Changed

Field Code Changed

To ensure that all individuals in the Orange County, New York area receive or have access to adequate healthcare, the need of health literacy is needed. Health literacy is defined by The Office Disease Prevention and Health Promotion as, “the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information needed to make appropriate health decisions. (51)

Field Code Changed

Other factors in medical healthcare is are the environmental issues surrounding individuals in their communities that affect their health. Some or the factors are:

- Access to foods that support healthy eating patterns
- Density of health facilities to other detriments to individual’s health, Examples: Liquor stores, Vape shops, Grocery stores and Gyms.
- Crime and violence in the community; drugs, shootings, gang violence
- Environmental Conditions; air population, water quality, lead poisoning, quality of housing, transportation

Some health needs that were identified in the most recent County Department of Health Community Assessment survey showed that the top three issues that affect health in Orange County, New York were: (47)

Field Code Changed

- 1- Access to affordable, decent, and safe housing
- 2- Access to affordable, reliable, personal and public transportation
- 3- Access to mental health providers

The survey also showed that the top three barriers to people achieving better health in Orange County, New York were: (47)

1. Knowledge of existing resources
2. Drug and/or alcohol use
3. Health literacy

Chronic Disease (heart disease, diabetes, asthma, obesity, etc.) can be preventable in many cases. Eating healthy to decrease obesity or overweight issues. Decreasing the overall statistics of smokers, all these components have a correlation to other additions of disease like diabetes, cancer heart disease.

The Orange County, New York Department of Health identified several health concerns that are being addressed through the *ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAND UPDATE: 2019-2021*. (54)

FOCUS AREA	GOAL	OBJECTIVE
Reduce Obesity in Adults	Increase access to healthy and affordable foods and beverages	By 12/31/21, decrease the percentage of adults who are obese to 5% from 29.7% to 28.2%. Prevention Agenda Goal: 24.2 by 2024
Reduce Obesity in Children	Prevent childhood obesity through early child care and schools.	By 12/31/21, decrease the percentage of children who are obese by 5% from 19.7% to 18.7% Prevention Agenda Goal: 16.4% by 2024
Tobacco Prevention	Prevent initiation of tobacco use, including combustible tobacco and electronic vaping products use by youth and young adults.	By 12/31/2021, decrease the prevalence of lifetime vaping product use by high school students by 20% from 25% to 22.5%. Prevention Agenda Goal: 5% or less by 2024
Part 2 of Tobacco Prevention	Promote tobacco use cessation amount disproportionate population affected by tobacco use (SES; mental distress/substance use disorder and disability).	By 12/31/21, decrease the prevalence if cigarette smoking by adults ages 18 and older by 10% from 13.2% to 11.9. Prevention Agenda Goal: 10% or less by 2024

Health Disparities, are a result of multiple factors, including poverty, environmental treats, inadequate access to health care, individual and behavioral factors and educational inequalities. Health disparities are strongly related to the historical and current unequal distribution of social, political, economic, and environmental resources.

RECAP's staff address health disparities during public events, outreach opportunities and community engagement. Providing information and education to the community is part of our mission. Creating a culture of equity and equality throughout healthcare is a top priority and RECAP has partnered with the Orange County Human Rights Commission as well as Cornerstone Family Healthcare to address this throughout the community.

Environmental Factors (environment, air/water quality, injuries, etc.), are often factors we do not realize that contribute to our health. Clean air, water and safe roadways and highways are essential to a healthy lifestyle.

The WHO (World Health Organization) in 2012 stated that 11% of the mortalities in the United States could be ascribed to environmental causes. (55)

Field Code Changed

Air pollution has been connected to some poor health conditions, particularly those linked to the respiratory system. The harmful consequences ensuing from exposure to fine particulate matter in the air include but not limited to a decreased lung function, chronic bronchitis, severe asthma, and premature death. Minority population and individuals living in poverty are more likely to be exposed. (56)

Prevent diseases (STIs, Hepatitis C, HIV, Vaccine preventable diseases*, hospital acquired infections, etc.)

The goal for all municipalities is to monitor and prevent diseases. Orange County, New York has the goal of and puts in the effect to prevent diseases and to have programs and processes in place.

To accomplish this goal:

*With the onset of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic it has been the main factor in the community. How to control transmission, hospitalization and getting access to vaccines, booster and home rapid testing for faster detection of the virus. In October 2021, Orange County, New York had seen a decrease in cases, deaths and hospitalizations with rolling average of 3.0%, however and the virus mutated by January 2022 the rolling average increase to 22.4% of cases. Putting a burden on the healthcare system with the already staff storages in the facilities.

The data below shows the progression of the focus at the moment with COVID-19. The chart demonstrates the start of the pandemic numbers in March 2020 to current reporting of this CNA (Community Needs Assessment) in 2022. In the start of the pandemic in March 2020 the numbers reflect as follows:

COVID- 19 Positivity Data Orange County, New York

	# Tested Positive	# Tested Negative	% Daily Tested Positive	7-day Rolling Average
March 2020	477	200	41.9%	40.4%
January 2021	2,612	172	6.6%	7.5%
January 2022	11,975	1,614	13.5%	22.4%

There was decline in Mid - July 2021 to an all-time low of 0.5% (daily positive rate) and 0.4% (7 day rolling average) when many people have been vaccinated and boosters were being administered. However, as communicable diseases change, and mutated and multiple variants were detected, an upsurge occurred in January 2022.

With all hands-on deck from state and local municipalities, including RECAP helping with distribution of essentials such as PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) such as hand sanitizers, face mask and gloves to community we can contain the spread. RECAP additionally distributed COVID-19 rapid test to clients and staff in need to help the stop of the spread of the virus among the community

LEVEL OF NEED AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **COMMUNITY: NEED TO INCREASE IMPROVED HEALTH OUTCOMES**
 - Engage local school's efforts to encourage healthy practices
 - Reduce environmental toxic conditions
 - Community Gardens to educate healthier foods and sustainability
 - Provide and information for supports to special needs population (e.g., Seniors, individuals with disabilities, individual with addiction, etc.)
 - ***Increase mobile healthcare vans***
 - ***Increase equity and access to healthcare***
- **AGENCY: NEED TO IMPLEMENT HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PROGRAMS**
 - Expand smoking cessation programs to all agency programs
 - Availability of healthier food choices at program nutritional food pantry
 - Provide drug awareness training for staff in agency programs
 - Provide health awareness workshops for clients
 - ***Encourage preventative health and wellness***
- **FAMILY: NEED TO BE HEALTHY**
 - Stop smoking
 - Healthier eating and more exercise
 - Annual prevention Health check-ups for all in the family
 - Sex education for teens and adults
 - Regular Dental checkups for overall health

Legal Services

We all have heard “justice for all”, however there are disparities in the legal system across this nation and within our own back yard. Americans need legal services more than ever. Help is needed for representation in Family Courts, Criminal Courts, and in Tenant and Landlord proceedings. Yet, effective legal assistance remains out of reach for most Americans. The gap between legal needs and services available has exacerbated systemic inequities and disadvantages in last five years. (58)

Field Code Changed

A justice gap is defined as the number of individuals who have at least one unmet justice need. Many people in low income neighborhoods are dealing with gaps in the justice system because they are not heard or do not know where to turn to get the assistance they need. The justice gap not only affects those mostly living in poverty but also perpetuates poverty.

Family court ranges from child support, restraining orders, mediation & family ties such adoption, divorce, name changes etc. Many families seeking help need assistance in filling out paperwork, a child court advocate or legal assistance for different issues. RECAP helps the community with referral to agencies who specialize in area of family law and advocacy and help with notary services for the community.

In 2019, RECAP’s Newburgh Services program served 305 families of those families 54 sought help in the areas of family (adult or child) legal services. The majority of helped requested was in immigration related paperwork.

Individuals seek legal services for criminal trial cases. Youths can be arrested if they have done something wrong or where involved in an activity or place they should not have been at because of suspicious behavior. In household where there is an abusive, substance addicted parent and/or a punitive environment, young teens often act out with behavioral problems and seek contact with deviant peers and join gangs. Juveniles who associate with other teens who engage in illegal activity are more likely to experience a police force contact regardless of their own illegal activity.

LEVEL OF NEED AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **COMMUNITY: NEED TO INCREASE NUMBER OF LEGAL AID LAWYERS**
 - Educated the people on their rights to legal counsel
 - Increase funding for Legal Aid Programs
 - Close the justice gap by changing civil and criminal laws
 - ***Examine bail reform***
- **AGENCY: NEED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT LEGAL RIGHTS**
 - Train staff on client legal (tenant rights, immigration rights, custody rights, etc.)
 - Advocate for legal right for low income population
 - Educate families about the impact of family life on juveniles
 - Partner with local legal services
- **FAMILY: NEED TO KNOW AND EXERCISE THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS**
 - Get trained on tenant rights
 - Learn about legal aid
 - Know your civil rights and resources
 - Provide children a nurturing home life

Financial Services

Each year, the average American without a banking account spends about \$1000 on high-cost, alternative financial products like money orders and checking cashing fees. Low-income families and communities are more likely to lack access to financial services. The lack of having affordable bank accounts, consumer credit, wire transfers, check cashing, bill paying, and other financial services is having missed opportunities to build assets and get out of poverty.

Many individuals who are low income pay higher rates on car loans, credit cards or any credit base product. Many struggling families get caught up on high interest credits, to ensure some extra funds to pay bills, food and other necessity. In the end they are over their heads with more debt and not way out the poverty levels they are already are in.

Financial literacy states to the management of money, often with a supposition that a person has access to funds and can decide how to utilize them. In the United States more than 2/3 of adults in America would fail a basic financial literacy test. More 47% of an American household do not have \$400 to cover an emergency. (59) The need for financial literacy programs for individuals and families are important and should start at a young age to ensure the knowledge of money and budget management to ensure the ability to not live in poverty. However, the financial gap begins early in life, The Annie E. Casey Foundation article states, "White and Asian 15-year-olds, on average, have substantially higher literacy scores, while Hispanic and Black students have substantially lower scores when compared to their general population peers, as reported in 2020 National Strategy for Financial Literacy." (59)

In today's economy people can achieve debt faster by forms of school loans or credit card debt. Many students have or are assuming weighty debt to finance their educations. The loss of employment and having these forms of debt can spiral any individual or family into poverty very quickly. With programs on financial literacy available it can help individuals identify many elements of having skills in financial literacy. The following elements stated in a financial literacy article in the Annie Casey Foundation website, states the main components in what youth should learn:

- 1. Frauds, scams and predatory lending practices**
- 2. Public and work-related benefits**
- 3. Banking practices**
- 4. Savings and investing strategies**
- 5. Credit use and interest rates**

With skills in financial literacy at a young age, it can prepare an individual in planning for the future and making sure they are not building debt to a life of poverty, but to a life of being self-sustainability and success in money management.

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Family or head or household providers who work are meeting financial stability just because they are employed. Many are just making do with the wages they receive to provide for their families. In the United States, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a major lifeline. It was created in 1975 and has expanded in the subsequently years. The EITC helps working people around the country. For example, a young mother of a 4-year-old is working full time- including overtime- as a teacher's aide and also studying to become a teacher, for a position that can pay her more. Her EITC refund will help cover her expenses, especially child care and books and supplies for her schooling.

Recently, due to the COVID-19 pandemic with so many job losses, the government implemented extra EITC payments to help many working families in the United States. In July 2021 through December 2021, most parents received half of their EITC during the year and were being deposited into bank accounts for payments, so the families did not have to wait to file their tax to make use of the resources of the EITC in which they needed at the present moment due to financial hardships because of the economic situation. The payments total to \$ 1,800 for each qualifying child ages 6-17, with most parents receiving \$250 each month for a total of \$1,500. Even though the benefit is time limited, many organizations such as The Annie Casey Foundation are urging policymakers to make the EITC payments permanent to help families. (60)

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Income in Orange County, New York is not necessarily equal to all. The median income of households in 2016-2020 in Orange County, New York, NY was \$80,816 compared to \$58,235 in Middletown, \$43,435 in Newburgh, and \$32,500 in Port Jervis. The median earnings in 2020 reflected inflation adjusted dollars for the population 16 years and over for the past 12 months have Males with a median income average income that is 127 times higher than the average income of females. The income inequality of Orange County, New York male to females occurs in all three cities RECAP serves. The median earnings with adjusted inflation dollars are \$49,014 male and \$33,572 female in Orange County, New York, \$40,264 male and \$28,927 female in Middletown, \$35,295 male and \$27,777 female Newburgh, and \$28,598 male and \$22,344 female in Port Jervis. (62)

During the 2020-2021 program year 47.5% of households served by RECAP received earnings through part - time and full - time jobs. Approximately (5%) RECAP households received income from employment plus other sources. Fourteen percent (6.5%) household received income from TANF. Approximately (14.2%) household received income from SSI and SSDI. Approximately (7.3%) household received income from Social Security Retirement. Other income including, workers compensation, unemployment or other pension total (12.1%) of the households. (17) RECAP families often have several sources of income and they still live in poverty in Orange County, New York.

The living wage shown below is the hourly rate that an individual must earn to support their family, if they are sole provider and are working full-time (2080 hours per year). The Minimum

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Hourly Wage for the majority of New York counties is \$12.50. In New York City, it is \$ 15.00 per hour. In Long Island and Westchester Counties, it is \$ 14.00 per hour.

Living Wage 2020

	One Adult	One Adult One Child	Two Adults	Two Adults One Child	Two Adults Two Children
Orange County, New York, NY	\$18.52	\$36.19	\$13.43	\$19.69	\$25.92
New York	\$20.05	\$37.46	\$14.29	\$20.33	\$26.50

Data Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Living Wage Calculator. Source geography: County

Approximately 82 percent (81.55%) of the 2,136 families served by RECAP during the 2020/2021 program year lived below the federal poverty guidelines. (17)

It is estimated that there were 9,940 households, or 10.83%, living in poverty within the county with the Family Poverty Rate of 125% in 2019-20. (5)

Families with low income trying to save for postsecondary education or job training, homeownership, or even start their own business would benefit in Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). An IDA is a special savings account that matches deposits low- and moderate-income savers. RECAP provides such programs with additional financial literacy workshops for the consumer and educate on many financial advantages for the individuals in the community RECAP serves.

Financial services for low-income families and individuals can help improve some of poor money management practices that cost them profoundly each year. Financial literacy is a means to break the cycle of poverty and to put families on track for gaining financial assets.

LEVEL OF NEED AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **COMMUNITY: NEED TO SUPPORT FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR LOW INCOME COMMUNITY**
 - Provide match funding to IDA savings programs
 - Forbid predatory lending practices
 - Expand limits on tax credits
 - Provide free tax preparation for low-income
 - Create a community bank
 - Ensure banking institutions in each community
- **AGENCY: NEED TO IMPLEMENT FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR CLIENTS**
 - Train staff on financial literacy education
 - Provide budgeting support for consumers
 - Train staff on all supplemental income program available to educate client
- **FAMILY: NEEDS TO DEVELOP FINANCIAL LITERACY SKILLS**
 - Open bank accounts such as IDAs
 - Save
 - Budget
 - Utilize financial social services programs (SSI, SSD, SNAP, TANF, FA, Safety Net)
 - File for EITC, CTC, CDCTC tax credit program

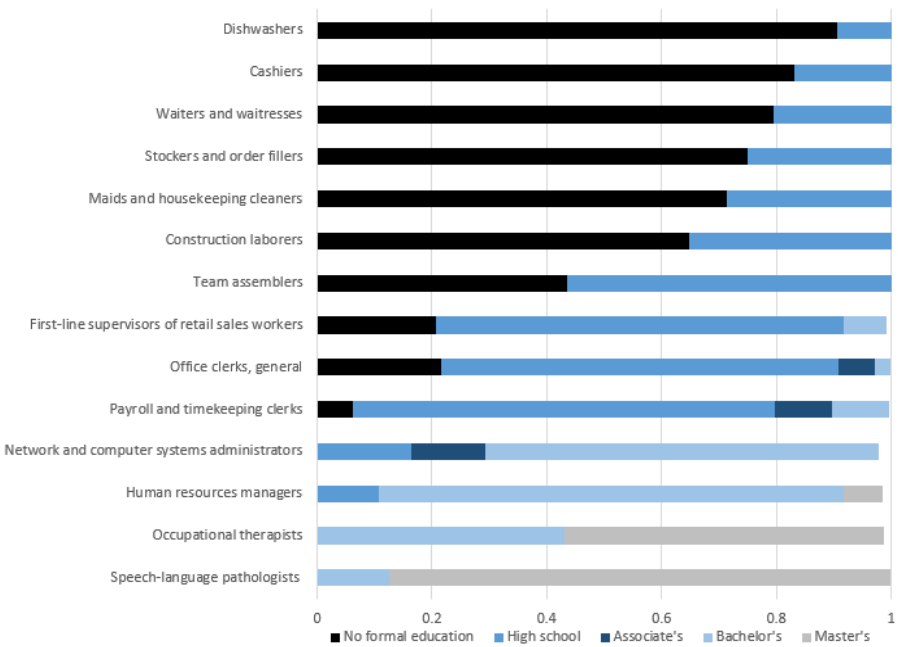
Education

Numerous jobs have a minimum requirement of a High School diploma or TASC – Test Assessing Secondary Completion (formerly known as GED/HSED). Jobs that do not require secondary education completion are known to be very low wage jobs. individuals may try to further their skill_set and complete training in other areas to apply for higher paying jobs, but many disqualify individual jobs because they still need the completion of secondary education or TASC (GED). Therefore, upward mobility with many jobs may be restricted without a high school diploma or college degree.

The 2021 Kids Data Book State Trends in Child-Well-being published report states, “The early years of a child’s life lay the foundation for lifelong success...yet country continues to have significant gaps in educational achievement by race and income along all age groups of child development.” (40)

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Percentage of Workers by Minimum Education Requirement, 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

The term educational attainment is commonly used by statisticians to refer to the highest degree of education an individual has completed as defined by the US Census Bureau Glossary. We measure this education criteria to compare overall socioeconomic circumstances in the community. High school completion is used as a representation to determine overall socioeconomic circumstance. Lack of education is strongly correlated with poverty and poor health. Individuals without a high school degree are more than twice as likely to live in inadequate housing compared to those with some college education.

Educational Attainment 2016-2020

	Orange County, New York, NY	Middletown City, NY	Newburgh City, NY	Port Jervis City, NY
Total Population 25 years or older, 2020	242,775	17,834	17,545	5,880
No high school degree	24,903	2,751	3,995	684
No high school degree, percent	10.3%	15.4%	22.8%	11.6%

High Reliability: Data with coefficients of variation (CVs) < 12% are in black to indicate that the sampling error is relatively small.

Medium Reliability: Data with CVs between 12 & 40% are in orange to indicate that the values should be interpreted with caution.

Low Reliability: Data with CVs > 40% are displayed in red to indicate that the estimate is considered very unreliable.

In the same 2016-2020 period, Orange County, New York had the highest percent of people over age 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher (30%), and Port Jervis, New York had the lowest (18.1%). (25)

Census Tract Areas in Orange County, New York RECAP Serves (18-24 years old)

(41)

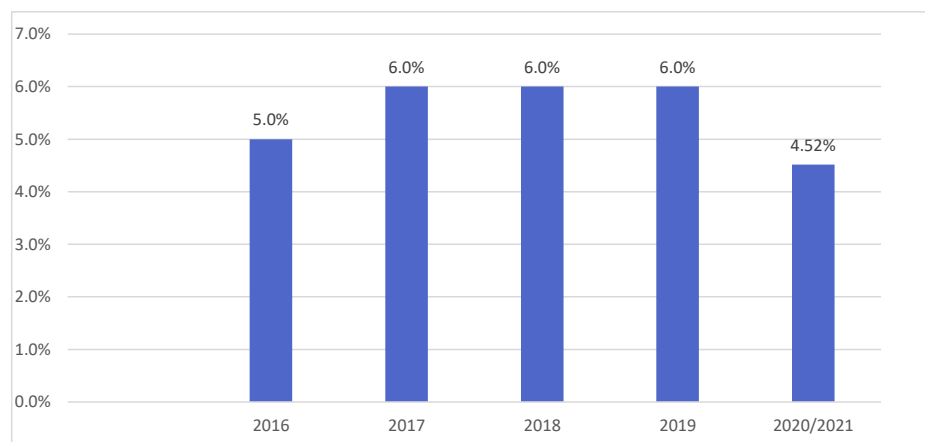
	Middletown		Port Jervis		Newburgh	
	Census Tract 12	Census Tract 151	Census Tract 22	Census Tract 4	Census Tract 5.02	Census Tract 5.01
No high School degree	37.0%	20.7%	5.1%	41.5%	20.5%	24.9%
Male	20.7%	24.7%	11.1%	23.0%	31.9%	53.6%
Female	41.3%	13.2%	0.0%	57.3%	11.1%	13.3%

Data Source: Census United States Bureau 2020

The education breakdown of RECAP's 2016-2021 client enrollment over 25 years was 10.31% with less than high school diploma, 18.84% with a high school diploma or equivalency, 4.73% with some post-secondary, and 3.75% with 2- or 4-year college graduate and higher. (17) As we see in the data from the Census Bureau and many other resources, there is a correlation of poverty within the community of individuals not completing high school or higher education. A high school diploma is in fact the road to higher earnings, at least on a joint level. The good news is from 2016- 2020/2021 the rates has not increase or decrease much in the Orange County, New York region. It has stayed a steady 5% to 6 % of the high school cohort dropout rate. (42)

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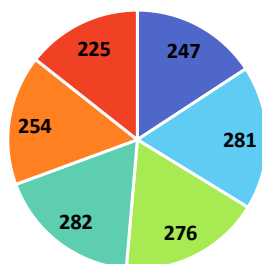
Orange County, New York Percentage of High School Dropouts 2016-2020



Data source: New York State Education via Mid-Hudson Valley Profiles

Number of High School Dropouts-Orange County, New York 2016-2020

Orange County



- Number of High School Dropouts 2016 ■ Number of High School Dropouts 2017
- Number of High School Dropouts 2018 ■ Number of High School Dropouts 2019
- Number of High School Dropouts 2020 ■ Number of High School Dropouts 2021

Data Source: New York State Education via Mid-Hudson Valley Profiles

In 2020 the median earning in the 12-month period with inflation-adjusted dollars by educational attainment in the population of 25 years and over were uploaded in the U.S. Census data. In Orange County, New York an individual over 25 years with only a high school degree or equivalency was earning an estimated \$37,554. In the same data it demonstrated with every achieved degree accumulated the earnings increased.

- Some college or associate degree - \$58,883
- Bachelor's Degree - \$82,139
- Graduate or professional degree -\$86,241

However, an individual with less than a high school graduate was estimated making \$26,983.

(2) According to the 2021 Federal Poverty Level Guideline table and individual was at the 200% poverty level if they were making \$27,180 a year, an individual with a high school diploma was \$10,000 away from a life changing need or financial burden from being within the lines of poverty. If the same individual had a family, for example a single mother of two the Census data estimates her median earnings without a HS diploma would have been \$18,333 making her income level of living in poverty. A family of three within the 2021 FPL guidelines was considered with impoverish income of \$46,060. (43)

Race and ethnicity are a huge factor in the dropout rate in Orange County, New York. Hispanics and Latinos are still the highest ethnic group in the county who have less than a high school education. In 2016-2020, Hispanics/Latino 25 and older were 19.89%, while Black/African American were at 10.48%, Asian at 10.71% and White were 8.48%. Overall, Hispanics and

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Latinos were the highest in the US at 29.73% in not having a high school or equivalency diploma.

The overall United States status dropout rate decreased from 8.3% in 2010 to 5.1% in 2019. During this time, the status dropout rate declined for 16- to 24-year-olds who were Hispanic (from 16.7% to 7.7%), American Indian/Alaska Native (from 15.4% to 9.6%), Black (from 10.3% to 5.6%), White (from 5.3% to 4.1%), Asian (from 2.8% to 1.8%), and of two or more races (from 6.1% to 5.1%). In contrast, there was no measurable difference between the status dropout rate in 2010 and 2019 for those who were Pacific Islander. (44)

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Orange County, New York Individual School Graduation Rate as of August 2018-2019

	Totals	Total Graduation # of H.S Students	Graduation Rate	GED Transfer	Still Enrolled	Dropout
All Students	4,942	4,369	88%	0%	6%	5%
Female	2,390	2,191	92%	0%	4%	4%
Male	2,552	2,178	85%	0%	7%	6%
Multi-Racial	55	46	84%	0%	5%	9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	12	8	67%	0%	17%	0%
Asian or Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	153	147	96%	0%	3%	1%
White	2,583	2,388	92%	0%	4%	3%
Black or African American	730	628	86%	0%	6%	7%
Hispanic or Latino	1,409	1,152	82%	0%	9%	8%
Students with Disabilities	771	525	68%	1%	17%	10%
Non- English Learner	4,773	4,305	90%	0%	5%	4%
Economically Disadvantaged	1,975	1,592	81%	1%	9%	9%
Homeless	134	76	89%	1%	19%	21%

Data Source: New York Education Department as of August 2020

LEVEL OF NEED AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **COMMUNITY: NEED TO SUPPORT LOWER HIGH SCHOOL DROP RATE**
 - Educate everyone in the community about the importance of school. All of the community benefits with more graduates in the workforce
 - Working base individuals in the community contribute to school culture by participating in events, donating supplies, or opening up businesses for trips and internships
 - Community centers to have programs to ensure at-risk students have a place during the entire day, afterschool programming as well as summer camps
 - Encourage and promote vocational training and education
- **AGENCY: NEED TO PROVIDE DROPOUT PREVENTION MEASURES TO SUPPORT TO FAMILIES WITH TEENS**
 - Workshops for parents about the importance of their teens staying in school
 - Programs for the youth on job readiness and training programs
 - Advocate for paid youth employment programs
 - Train staff to identify families with struggling teens and provide support services
 - Partnerships with business and trade for field work and training
- **FAMILY: NEED TO KEEP THEIR TEENS IN SCHOOL**
 - Let your teen know that you value education as important factor to their future
 - Be involved in their school by partnering up with teachers on their progress
 - Seek resources to ease any economic stress in the household

KEY FINDINGS-CAUSES AND CONDITIONS OF POVERTY - CORE NEEDS

"I know that government doesn't have the all solutions that real solutions do not come from the top down. Instead, the ways to end poverty come from all of us. WE ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION."

– Kathleen Blanco

After a complete analysis of the data compiled, the committee worked to answer two very important questions. "What core needs must be met by Orange County, New York individuals and families living with low income in order to become economically self-sufficient" and "Are these unmet needs causes or conditions of poverty?"

The first core need that was identified was HOUSING.

Housing is the key to reducing intergenerational poverty and increasing economic mobility. The lack of affordable housing has families stay in impoverished conditions and are not able to meet their other needs like healthcare, food and nutrition, and transportation. Homeless persons are more likely to suffer from depression and become victims of violence in order to protect themselves when are in shelters or living on the streets. The data shows that increasing access to affordable housing is the most cost-effective strategy for reducing childhood poverty and increasing economic mobility in the cities of Orange County, New York.

The second core need that was identified was EMPLOYMENT.

Unemployment can cause poverty, increased crime rates and exploitation of laborers. Two major causes of unemployment in Orange County, New York that was identified is the lack of experience because of skillset for employment opportunities and the unreliable or availability transportation for individuals to get to and from the workplace.

The third core need that was identified was Food and NUTRITION.

It is important to understand just as poverty and income insecurity can lead to poor nutrition, in the contrary the same dynamic exists. Poor nutrition undermines health body and in turn can contribute to poverty. Poor nutrition is one of the main causes of chronic disease and emotional stress. With 9.1 % of the Orange County, New York dealing with food insecurity in 2021, it demonstrates that hunger exists in every corner of the United States. The data shows that many people who are dealing with food insecurity do not qualify for assistance such as SNAP to complement their food budget and go without food in their families and use many food pantries as added source to help feed their families.

The fourth core need that was identified was TRANSPORTATION.

The little or nonexistent reliability of transportation in the Orange County, New York, NY community is a major barrier in many of the other cores we have identified. The need for transportation, raises the need to get proper health and mental care, employment and accessibility to many other essential needs of the community for low income individuals without their own transportation or reliable transportation. Therefore, the lack of transportation can be a cause as well as a condition of poverty. Reliable transportation can lead the people in the community to get jobs to become self-sufficient.

The fifth core need that was identified was CHILD CARE.

A lack of child care in a community can have many negative consequences for someone trying to move themselves out of poverty. Early child development has been proven to have a positive effect on a child's environment, mental and sensory development. The start of education at an early age can promote better education attainment. It can also aide with a parent's ability to work or go to school to better themselves for the future. With available childcare services it can help with education, employment and training which can have a positive economic effect on self-sufficient.

ADDITIONAL FOCUS AREAS

Focus Area 1: Behavioral Health Understanding the correlation of poverty and behavioral health can reduce poverty in our community. The issues of depression, drinking and substance abuse can affect a person's mental health. However, another stressor can be the insecurity of food, housing (homelessness) and not able to sustain a household with the low living wage. The shortage of mental health providers in the area is also prevalent to the problem. Due to the current stressor of COVID-19 pandemic the shortage of providers and the increase of mental care has been problematic to the community in need.

Focus Area 2: Medical Healthcare High-quality health care helps prevent diseases and improve quality of life. Communities should focus on improving health care quality and making sure all people get the health care services individuals in their district need. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the inequities of healthcare access. Addressing behavioral health concurrently with the social determinants of health are vital to healthy communities. Communities should include addressing structural racism and inequities and how it, with other determinants, impacts a person's ability to achieve health equity and address them appropriately. Community-wide addressing of social determinants of health will help to improve health outcomes.

Focus Area 3: Access to AFFORDABLE LEGAL SERVICES.

Justice gaps exist in communities, in particular those with limited resources. A justice gap is defined as the number of individuals who have at least of one unmet justice need. The majority of individuals who deal with a justice gap are individuals in poverty. The inability to obtain legal services because of poverty can be detrimental to an individual dealing with a legal issue. The inability to afford legal counsel may increase interactions with the justice system and poorer outcomes with regard to legal or family court issues. Being able to obtain Legal Aid resources can help families and individuals who are dealing with legal issues that cannot afford a private attorney.

Focus Area 4: FINANCIAL SERVICES.

The inability to have access to financial services or the knowledge of financial literacy can hinder or increase poverty in community. Not able to open a bank account and paying for money orders and cashing paychecks at financial institutions who charge can add to the expenses over run by other needed essentials in everyday necessities. Programs like Earned Income Tax Credit can benefit families. In the past year of 2021 to 2022 EITC were provided to all due to COVID-19 pandemic financial stimulus for assistance during hard economic time. Programs like Individuals Development Accounts (IDAs). An IDA is special savings and checking account that matches deposits of low- and moderate-income savers.

Focus Area 5: EDUCATION.

Many jobs need a High School diploma or equivalency to obtain employment. The need to have a diploma or skillset certification is key to obtain a higher wage employment to sustain individuals and family's households. The link to unemployment has been the lack of a good education or training for a skillset in the workforce industry. The higher education degree accumulated the earnings increased for an individual.

CONCLUSION

RECAP's Community Needs Assessment identifies and highlights the most challenging needs in our community and offers a leveled approach to addressing each challenge.

Moreover, when examining each Core Need more closely it is clear they are, many of them, interconnected.

The social determinants of health (SDOH) drive outcomes in a community. Each of the Core Needs and Focus Areas laid out in this CNA is a SDOH or focus area in the main health areas. Without addressing multiple needs, on multiple levels the over-arching challenge of poverty will not be adequately addressed.

For 57 years, RECAP has leveraged public and private partnerships to address poverty and by engaging our community partners progress can be made to increase self-sufficiency and increase health outcomes for our neighbors.

APPENDICES

Summary of Surveys, Focus Groups and Interviews

RECAP conducted various of data collection and different methods. RECAP first developed the questions and linked and shared via Microsoft forms. The surveys could be completed either electronically or in paper form. The Director of Quality Assurance and Program Directors helped in the process of getting the information and inputted into our data collection. Each survey took an average of between 5 and 7 minutes to complete. The specific needs and areas of needed increase of assistance is noted and collected. Orange County, New York community top needs were identified, it can be seen in the chart below:

Board Members Survey Results	Community Stakeholders Results	Community Survey Results
1. Affordable Housing	1.	1.
2. Child Care	2.	2.
3. Job Training /Workforce Development	3.	3.
4. Food Insecurity	4.	4.
5. Transportation	5.	5.
6. Education	6.	6.
7. Financial Literacy/Assistance	7.	7.
8. Mental Health Awareness	8.	8.
9. Medical Care	9.	9.
10. Substance Abuse Programs	10.	10.

Appendix A: COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

BOARD OF DIRECTOR SURVEY

The Board of Directors were surveyed and 10 out of 12 members responded and gave input on the following questions:

1. List 5. What would you list as the top 5 needs of a community with a high poverty rate?
2. Do you have any suggestion for the types of services that would help meet the needs of the community?
3. What do you think is the Board Members responsibility in serving our community?
4. What do you think RECAP can do for more visibility in the community?

RECAP's Board of Directors were surveyed. It was an internal Community Assessment Survey with all the Board of Directors one on one virtual interview. The survey questions were featured on specific answers and views of areas of need and concerns. The board is a diverse group of individuals from different areas of the community. In an open-ended question, list of types of services needed to help the community, 90% of the Board of Director answered the need of, "Affordable Housing". In suggestions for services we should provide, 30% of the Board stated, "RECAP should have a readily accessible services where all people can utilize all the services a Station HUB for all agencies in the community to unify the system". The Board agreed by 70%, they all have the responsibility to understand and support the services and programs the mission of RECAP provide and they should be fiscally sound for delivery them to the community RECAP serves. The board believes (70%) RECAP needs more social media presence for visibility to the community and many of the board members also believe RECAP needs Latin Representative even though we currently have a diverse agency of staff more Latin representation is needed in the community.

The top 3 concerns and issues identified with the greatest need in the community were:

- affordable housing,
- child care, and
- job training/workforce development.

The suggestion for the types of more services that would help the needs of the community was tied between child care and job training with workforce development. The Board members felt their responsibility in serving the RECAP community consists of helping promoting the agency for more awareness of need of funding and grants in the fiduciary area to supply the services with all the needs to run the programs within the organization to demonstrate and follow our mission and values.

Overall, all the Board members are on the same accord in realizing and making sure all the needs of the cities and towns RECAP serves in Orange County, New York are been served. They agree they more social media presence is needed for the population of the community knows about our services and for the other partnerships in helping bring the goal of helping all to fruition.

Appendix B: COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT –

STAKEHOLDERS SURVEY

1. Which of the following best describes the organization you represent? ☐ Elected office ☐ Social Service Provider ☐ Educational Institution ☐ For Profits Business ☐ Landlord/Property Manager ☐ Government Agency ☐ Faith Leader ☐ Other
2. What town/city does your organization operate in/cover?
3. How long have you been at your organization / business? ☐ Under 1 year ☐ 1-5 years ☐ 6-10 years ☐ 11-20 years ☐ 21 + years
4. What do you see as the current needs in your community, please rate each of the issues below by: (two section Q.4 and Q.5)?

	Critical Concern	Somewhat a Concern	Not at all a concern
Food Costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to healthy foods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home repairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reducing utility costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help with managing money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help paying utility bill(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Credit card or loan debt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parenting support and education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High School drop-outs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affordable daycare before/after school care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neighborhood Safety and Security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paying for college/higher education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health Insurance/Healthcare Costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental and/or Vision Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs for youth/teens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Juvenile Delinquency/Crime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drug or Alcohol Abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. What do you see as the current needs in your community, please rate each of the issues below by:

	Critical Concern	Somewhat a Concern	Not at all a concern
Programs & Services for Seniors Citizens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services for Disabled people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterans Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental Health Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Language Barriers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Immigration/citizenship issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incarceration/reintegration issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finding a job	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Which one item of the list above is MOST important need right now overall in your community (or communities)?

7. Please share any comments about the availability of services or other unmet needs in your community from your perspective. Any suggestion for improvement in services or quality of living?

Social and Human services agencies were the primary organizations represented in the stakeholder’s survey. All the stakeholders cover or operate in the Orange County, New York area. The majority of stakeholders have been with their organizations for over 5 years.

In the survey the current needs in your community was rated for the top three are: Health insurance/Healthcare costs (94.1%), Mental Health Wellness (88.2%) the following three are at the same percentage of 82.4%: Increasing income, Affordable daycare before/after, Drug and Alcohol abuse programs and the third is food costs at 76.5%. Overall, the stakeholders stated the most important item to be address at the current time in a follow up question is the area of Mental Health issues and awareness. The comments the stakeholders shared was the availability of service or other unmet needs in the community in their perspective are the needs the pandemic has exacerbated in the areas due to job loss, rise in prices, and retaining staff in the work place. Another unmet need stated was the availability of affordable housing. Additionally, more services are needed and the ramifications of the pandemic demonstrated Orange County, New York has many unmet needs and a process needs to be put in place to provide these needs to the community.

Appendix C: COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FOR SENIOR STATISTICS

Statistics of Survey for Elderly Community Assessment			Total Participants	Percentage of Total
Gender	Male	12	37	32.4%
	Female	25		67.5%
Age range of Participants	50-59	0 (M)	7	0%
		7(F)		18.9%
	60-69	3(M)	10	8.1%
		7 (FM)		18.9%
	70-79	4 (M)	12	10.8%
		8 (F)		21.6%
	80+	5(M)	8	13.5%
		3 (F)		8.1%
Race/Ethnicity of Participants	Black or African America	9(M)	24	24.3%
		15(F)		40.5%
	Asian	0	0	0%
	Hispanic	0(M)	7	0%
		7(M)		18.9%
	White	3(M)	6	8.1%
		3(F)		8.1%
	Other	0	0	0%
Veteran	6	Males	6	16.2%

The senior tenants in the building. In the building they have approximately about 62 senior tenants and 37 seniors participated (59.6%) in giving us feedback on our First survey for this Community Needs Assessment: Elderly Community Assessment Survey.

The chart above states the breakdown of the statistic demographic characteristics of the elderly community needs assessment survey.

The highest identified gender was female seniors at 67.5%. The average highest age group was 70-79 years old at 32.4 %. The majority of participant who partook in the survey were Black or African American at 64.8% and Black or African American females were the highest at 40.5%. We only had 6 senior veterans who participated at 16.2% of overall totaled surveyed.

We had 86.4% of seniors were able to care for themselves during the “stay at home” order, out of the 37 participants. We had an overall “n/a” for any specific issue they had as the follow up question, however 5% of the respondents answered the unavailability of Home Health Aide to assist them for day to day help or chores was the cause of specific issues. Many of the seniors did not have to live separately, they live in a senior housing complex either by themselves or with their senior spouses. The overall percentage of not having to live separately was 64.8%.

Only 35.1 % has issues with getting food. RECAP had been contributing to the site with drop off bags of groceries for the tenants during the pandemic. Even though the response data is low at 35.1% of not having issues of transportation for doctors' appointments, stores, etc. One of the main issues was getting reliable medical transport to take them to their medical appointments. Majority had telehealth appointments instead, however many seniors did not have the technology or a tablet, laptop or smartphone to utilize these options and went without visiting their doctors for many months. Many participants did not have an issue with obtaining their prescriptions. The local pharmacy in the area were the majority of senior fill their prescription via e-script (electronic prescriptions) method is home delivered to them. This resource helped the seniors in the housing complex, the percentage of having difficulty obtaining prescription medicine was only 16.2%. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) was used and needed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The response of having issues of obtaining 51.3 % for YES, and 48.6% for NO. Even the distribution of essential PPE to the community, the seniors at this complex had some difficulty obtaining PPE during this time.

The health question in the survey focused on COVID-19 related areas. Even with so many individuals contracting the virus, from the participant pool survey only 43.2% were exposed to COVID-19 ,54% were not exposed, and 86.4% of seniors had no issue in obtaining a vaccine or booster to help alleviate the severe pandemic spread.

The survey question consisted of the following:

Elderly Community Assessment Survey Pre and During the COVID – 19 Family Survey

1. Where you able to care for yourself do to the "stay at home" order: ☐YES ☐NO
2. Following up to the previous question, was there a specific issue you had?
3. Did you have to live separately for health, safety or job demands? ☐YES ☐NO
4. Did you have difficulty getting food? ☐YES ☐NO
5. Did you have difficulty getting transportation to and from destinations (doctors, stores)?
☐YES ☐NO
6. Following up from previous question, what specific issues you had with transportation?
7. Did you have difficulty getting prescription medicine? ☐YES ☐NO
8. Did you have difficulty getting other essentials (PPE, hygiene products, etc.)? ☐YES ☐NO
9. Were you exposed to COVID-19? ☐YES ☐NO
10. Was/Is the COVID-19 vaccine or booster appointment difficult to get? ☐YES ☐NO ☐N/A

In conclusion to the survey data, what was recognized is the need for reliable transportation is needed for the elderly to travel to medical appointments and to conduct errands such as grocery shopping and pharmacy medication pick-ups. The decline in home care agency aides in the area was also a main hindrance to homebound seniors or disable seniors not able to travel during the pandemic.

APPENDIX D: COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY FOR FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION - Newburgh, NY

Statistics of Survey for Food Pantry			Total Participants	Percentage of Total
Gender	Male	13	37	35.1%
	Female	24		64.8%
Age range of Participants	18-29	1 (M)	1	2.7%
	30-40	10 (F)	11	27%
		1 (M)		5.4%
	41-50	9 (F)	10	24.2%
		1 (M)		2.7%
	50-60	2(F)	5	2.7%
		3 (M)		8.1%
	60-70	2(F)	4	5.4%
		2(M)		8.1%
	70+	1(F)	6	2.7%
		5(M)		10.8%
Race/Ethnicity of Participants	Black or African America	7(F)	12	18.9%
		5(M)		13.5%
	Asian	0	0	0%
	Hispanic	12(F)	19	32.4%
		7(M)		18.9%
	White	4(F)	5	10.8%
		1(M)		2.7%
	Other	0	0	0%
Veteran	0	0	0	0%

The above chart demonstrates the demographic characteristics of the Newburgh food pantry participants from their survey.

In the Newburgh, NY distribution location RECAP gives out bags of groceries, varying of items: produce, canned goods, meat and dairy. The bag supplements the needs of the participant's family food meals where are lacking due to in because of being allocated in other areas of the household budget, such as utilities, transportation and rent/mortgage.

On the specific day of the survey 37/40 people contributed to survey feedback. The majority of gender served was female at 64.8%. The average age group served and participated in the survey was 41-50-year-old at 27.4%. The majority of race or ethnicity served was Hispanic at 51.3%. No veterans were noted as being served on this particular distribution.

The questions asked to the participants in English and Spanish who came to the distribution site in Newburgh was:

Food Pantry Distribution Community Assessment Family Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey about your household overall experience with RECAP's Food Distribution pantry. Your answers will be completely anonymous and confidential. Nothing you say in this survey will affect your ability to visit a food pantry. Thank you for your honest feedback.

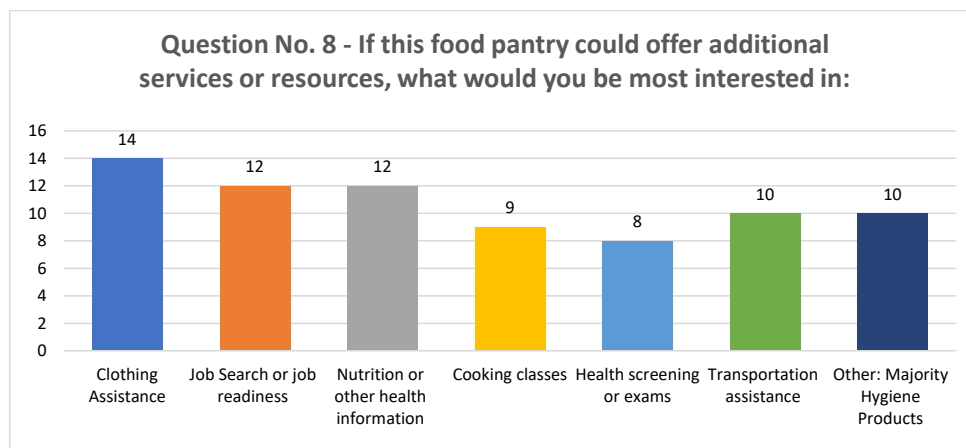
1. How often do you visit this or another food pantry? ☐ This is my First time ☐ Once a Week ☐ Once a Month ☐ Once a few months
2. How satisfied are you with the following qualities of the food offered by the food pantry?
☐ Very Satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neutral ☐ Somewhat Dissatisfied ☐ Very Dissatisfied
3. How satisfied in the amount of food received? Are there any suggestions?
☐ Very Satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neutral ☐ Somewhat Dissatisfied ☐ Very Dissatisfied
4. Variety of Food? ☐ Very Satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neutral ☐ Somewhat Dissatisfied ☐ Very Dissatisfied
5. How often do staff at this food pantry treat you with respect? ☐ Never ☐ Rarely ☐ Sometimes ☐ Mostly ☐ Always
6. On a scale 1-5 how well is this Food Pantry doing on Distribution of food to the community.
7. How likely are you to recommend this food pantry to a friend or family member in the community?
☐ Extremely Likely ☐ Somewhat Likely ☐ Neutral ☐ Somewhat Unlikely ☐ Extremely Unlikely
8. If this food pantry could offer additional services or resources, what would you be most interested in (select all that apply) ☐ Clothing Assistance ☐ Job search or job readiness assistance (e.g., resume writing, training) ☐ Nutrition or other health information ☐ Cooking classes ☐ Health screenings or exams (e.g., Food Stamps, WIC, Medicaid, Medication) ☐ Transportation assistance ☐ Other

The clients served were about 40 individuals and their families, 37 people completed a survey on our services and the needs of the community. Out of the 37 people surveyed, 70.2% visit this pantry at least once a week for the food distribution. The satisfaction level was:

- 48.6% were satisfied with quality of the food,
- 51.3% were satisfied with the amount of food received, and
- 45.9% were satisfied with variety of the food distributed.

Overall, 64.8% on were “Always” treated with respect by the staff or volunteers at the distribution site. On a scale from 1-5, with 5 being the best, 59.4% picked 5 on how well the food pantry is contributing to the community. The participants were 67.5% “Extremely Likely” to recommend the food pantry to a friend or family member in their community. The highest additional service or resources the participant choose in question No. 8 is the need for clothing assistance (37.8%) in the community, however in the other category the consensus of the answer in this area was the need of hygiene products (27%). We asked a follow up question on this area and the main reason is the cost of hygiene products is very high and the need is needed for things as, feminine female products, soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, deodorant and laundry detergent. Many individuals stated their budgets could not compensate hygiene products for them or their families.

With the additional services data question response being on the same levels. The most consistent answer was hygiene products as “Other”. All responses in that “Other” question was a specific need. Here is the break down on the “Other”:



Appendix E: COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS

Statistics of Survey Substance Abuse Programs -Community Assessment			Total Participants of Survey	Percentage of Total
Gender	Male	14	22	63.6%
	Female	8		36.3%
	Unknown/Did not prefer to answer	0		
Age range of Participants	18-30	7		31.8%
	31-40	5		22.7%
	41-55	7		31.8%
	55 +	1		4.5%
	Unknown/Did not prefer to answer	2		9%
Race/Ethnicity of Participants	Black or African America	4		18.1%
	Asian	0		0 %
	Hispanic	3		13.6%
	White	9		40.9%
	Other	1		4.5%
	Unknown/Did not prefer to answer	4		18.1%
Veteran	Unknown/Did not prefer to answer	0		0%

RECAP's Substance Use Disorder Program provided the participants the opportunity to express their needs and opinion on the program. RECAP has two programs within the substance use disorder program: New Life Manor and TRUST Center. We had 22 individuals who partook in the survey, within the data 63.6% were male and 36.3% were female. The average age of participants was between the ages of 18-55 years old, (31.8% were 18-30 yrs. old and 31.8% of 41-55 yrs. old). The majority race or ethnicity was 40.9% white, the second was African America/Black at 18.1%.

Program Community Assessment Survey

Substance Use Disorder Programs

Please tell us about your experience with Addictions/Substance Use Disorder Program. This survey is confidential and anonymous.

1. Considering your complete experience with the program how likely would you be to recommend it to a friend or colleague?
2. Were you enrolled in which program or both?
3. On the scale to 1-5, 5 being the most involved, how involve were you in the development of your treatment goals?
4. Please rate you level of satisfaction for the following points?

	Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Program Organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Case Workers knowledge on topics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facility Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. How did you hear about our program?
6. On scale of 1 to 5, 1 being not good and 5 being excellent, rate if you received specific treatment for your needs.
7. Please state 3 things that benefitted you the most from the program?
8. Please state 3 things you would have like to experience in the program.
9. What suggestions do you have to improve the program?
10. Did you receive treatment specific to your identified individual need?
11. Did you work with your clinician to determine your individual goals?

The information retained from the survey demonstrated that the majority of the participants who partook in this survey were 'satisfied' with the program and stated the top things they benefitted with the program; great staff, selection of group sessions, and the help in relapse prevention. They noted the main three things for improvement was the need for more information on topics and closer areas for groups without them having to travel to Middletown, NY location. Overall, all the survey participation where satisfied with program organization, case workers knowledge on topics and the facility environment.

Appendix F: COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT RECAP's HEAD START FOCUS GROUP SURVEY

In 2022, RECAP's Head start help a focus group virtual meeting to discuss and answers specific question on the survey below with the parents who attended the meeting. The meeting was a diverse group of parents and staff members from RECAP's Head Start program. The location represented were from, Port Jervis and Middletown.

In the focus virtual meeting the main concern and needs of the community was reliable transportation. Many children do not attend the Head Start program because there is no reliable public transportation in the cities or in Orange County, New York for the participants and their children who need to attend child care services. RECAP's provides some transportation to some of the children, however to provide more transportation a monumental amount of funds is needed for school buses or vans to transport the children to and from child care Head Start facilities. An estimated 700k or more is needed to purchase and run the expense of a child care transportation system. The second greatest need is after school program in the cities of Middletown, Newburgh and Port Jervis. Port Jervis has the biggest need because they are little to none after school resources providing after school hours needs for the parents who are working and need a safe a reliable program for their school age children to be. More YMCA locations, and library programs for school age children are needed in community. Parents or guardians of the children in the community who participate in the Head Start program have a variety of work schedules. It makes it difficult when the HS program has a time set of 9am to 3:30 pm schedule for full day students and half of that for half a day student. The ability to work or attend college or any other training program makes it difficult for any parent or guardian to progress in their goals to have a sustainable living wage to provide for their family.

The community who participated in the virtual focus group were from all the areas of RECAP's Head Start programs (Middletown, Port Jervis and Scotchtown). The main area where the need was observed was in the city of Port Jervis. Port Jervis is a city which has no major transportation infrastructure and not many child care services or after school programs. The nearest programs are located in city of Middletown or Newburgh, which is not attainable for individuals without access to transportation.

The other concerns and needs in the community are the need for a HUB for social services programs like SNAP, DSS, DMV and Social Security offices. The nearest place to obtain these services is in Goshen, NY and Middletown. Many participants stated during the COVID-19

pandemic the city of Port Jervis was like a ghost town. It did not have access to food pantry during the main time of need of food availability and lock down. The residences of Port Jervis who are low income individuals and are within the or more on the Federal poverty line felt they were not reached or not reached for the needs they having now and then. The need is not given or an importance because the population of this city is majority older and working adults, while the people of need are not counted as being provided the services like other locations in Orange County, New York. It can be many factors, age, race and politics of the needs of some of the community. With all these factors many in all of the cities RECAP serve worry on the impact on the children and their developmental needs and social needs to prosper and be successful in their educational progress. Early childcare has been demonstrated to be a major influential factor for the success for children. The need for more programs is needed and the barriers to achieve them are needed to be taken care off for the success of all the children in Orange County, New York, NY.

The focus group questions to the participants were:

- 1.What are the needs of your child and family? (ex: education, health, wellness, nutrition, etc.)
- 2.Which community resources do you utilize most frequently?
- 3.How Many Adults in the household are currently working, in job training, or school? ☐ 1 Adult ☐ 2 Adults
☐ More than 2 Adults
- 4.Please indicate which scenarios apply to the Adults in your home for each category below: ☐ None ☐ 1 Adult ☐ 2 Adults ☐ More than 2 Adults

☐ Full time 30+ hours ☐ Part time < 30 hours ☐ Work more than one job ☐ In Job Training ☐ In School ☐ At Home/ Caring for your child(ren) Full Time ☐ Other
- 5.Which days do the adults typically work/attend job training/school? (Check all that apply) ☐ Mon. ☐ Tues.
☐ Wed. ☐ Thurs. ☐ Fri. ☐ Sat. ☐ Sun. ☐ changing schedule
- 6.Which schedules best describe work job training/ school hours for the adults in your household? (Check all that apply) ☐ 8am-4pm ☐ 9am-5pm ☐ Part time mornings ☐ Part time afternoons ☐ 10-12 hour shifts daytime
☐ Overnights ☐ Other daytime hours ☐ Other evening/ overnight hours ☐ Flexible hours when I'm available
ex: Uber, Door Dash, Instacart ☐ Other
- 7.If "Other" please describe or put N/A:
- 8.Which Community do you engage with most often?

☐ Port Jervis ☐ Middletown ☐ Other

9. Other Community: Which community do you engage with the most?
10. What are the greatest strengths of your community?
11. Which community resources are the greatest challenge to access?
12. What are the greatest needs in your community and why?
13. What else is important for the program to know about the strengths and needs of your community and family?
14. How has COVID-19 impacted your family and community?

The focus group were asked in the virtual meeting and were given the survey as well to fill out the answers and comments pertaining to their concerns and needs. The main need to many of the families or parents was the necessity of education for their children development. They felt that they utilized schools and health facilities and providers on a major level in the areas they reside in Orange County, New York. The percentage of adults in the household working are at 65% from the responses of this focus group survey. Additionally, majority of these households are sustained by one parent household which are the sole providers of income, or in a two-parent family only one parent is working and providing the income for the household. In the households, 68.8% are working one or two jobs, 82.4% are currently in job training, and 63.2% are attending school to better their chances for a higher wage job or obtaining employment. The typical work day attending either work, school or job training courses, is on a Thursday. The typical work hours for attending work or school/training is from 8am to 6pm. The other time frame demonstrating the highest hours is the midday shift from 11am – 8pm or 4pm -12 midnight. The latter hours are more difficult to obtain childcare, majority of childcare facilities or program only run 8am to 3:30pm, and many after school programs are from 3pm to 6pm. The need for childcare for these hours is a need in the community, where many individuals are working multiple jobs or having jobs with shifts that normal to the 9am to 5pm schedule.

The participants who contributed to this survey, stated the community in which they engage most often with was the city of Middletown, NY. They stated the strength of the community is the schools and the district in the area. The concerns they had was the need for transportation, childcare, and activities for the children to prevent them from straying from the right direction in their life and development. For example, drug prevention, gang affiliations, or life of crimes and violence with individuals who look for children or young adults who need attention and activities to better themselves. The majority of participants agreed transportation is a major

obstacle in the community. With no reliable transportation many of these families can not attend activities for the children, attend childcare or travel to medical appointments.

The other important needs in programs stated in the focus group survey was the need for opportunities for single parent mothers in the community. The need for parenting classes, financial literacy for money management, job training, and job opportunities with wages that can sustain the families without obtaining supplemental help from the government such as TANF, SNAP or subsidiaries.

In conclusion, the question that was asked on the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on their families. The top 3 concerns were:

- The concern about their health and their family's health and not able to see their families or friends.
- Mental Illness- Depression due to isolation.
- The cost of gas, food, and daily necessities due to the loss of jobs and hours of work.

Appendix G: COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT -COMMUNITY SURVEY

The survey questions to the participants were:

1. What town/city you live in?

2. Household size:

	1	2	3	4	5	0
# of children (0-17yrs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
# of Adults (18-64yrs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
# of Older Adults (65+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Please indicate what gender you identify as: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Transgender F to M ☐ Transgender M to F ☐ I do not identify as Male, Female, or Transgender

4. What is your age group? ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-31 ☐ 32-49 ☐ 32-49 ☐ 50-64 ☐ 65+

5. Housing (please select one below) ☐ I own my own home ☐ I rent a home/apartment ☐ I rent a room ☐ I am homeless (car/street/shelter/etc.) ☐ I live with family ☐ I live with friends ☐ I am currently in a facility (jail/treatment center/domestic violence shelter/nursing home)

6. Please select the option that best describes your race: ☐ African -American/ Black ☐ Asian ☐ Native American or Alaska Native ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ☐ White ☐ Multi-race

7. Are you Hispanic? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. How much income does you household have in a year? ☐ Less than \$15,700 ☐ \$15,701- \$26,150 ☐ \$26,151-\$41,850 ☐ \$41,851-\$50,000 ☐ \$50,001-\$75,000 ☐ \$75,000 +

9. In your home, what language is spoken most? ☐ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Other

10. Are you or a household member currently in the Armed Forces or a Military Veteran? ☐ Yes ☐ No

11. Please check all sources of income in your household: ☐ Full-Time Employment ☐ Part-Time Employment ☐ Self-employment ☐ TANF ☐ Unemployment ☐ SSI/SSDI ☐ Child Support ☐ Pension ☐ Workers Compensation ☐ No income ☐ Other

12. Please select the highest level of education completed in your household: ☐ 0-8th Grade ☐ 9th-12th Grade, no Diploma ☐ High School diploma/GED/Vocational/Trade School ☐ Associate Degree ☐ Bachelor's Degree ☐ Post-Graduate Degree

13. Has your household needed assistance this past year of any kind? ☐ Yes ☐ No

14. If yes, were you able to get access to the assistance you needed? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Did not receive any services

15. From what agency/resources did you receive assistance? List multiple agencies if needed:

16. Based on the current needs of your household and your community, please rate each of the issues (Q.4 and Q.5):

	A Critical Concern	Somewhat a Concern	Not at all a Concern
Food costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to healthy foods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing/ Rent costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home repairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reducing utility costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help with managing money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help pay utility bill(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Credit card or loan debt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parenting support and education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's education/tutoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High School Drop-outs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affordable daycare or before/after school care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neighborhood Safety and Security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paying for college/higher education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health Insurance/Healthcare Costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental and /or Vision Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Juvenile Delinquency/ Crime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drug or Alcohol Abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic Abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. Based on the current needs of your household and your community, please rate each of the issues (Q.4 and Q.5):

	A Critical Concern	Somewhat a Concern	Not at all a Concern
Programs and services for Senior Citizens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services for Disabled people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veteran's Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental Health Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Language Barrier (s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Immigration/Citizenship issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incarceration/reintegration issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finding a job	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Job Training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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18. Which ONE item of the list above is most important need right now?

19. Please share any comments about the availability of services or other unmet needs in your community?

Out of the participants responds to the survey the majority reside in the town/city of Newburgh. The average household who responded to the survey were 1 family households and the ages where 0-17 years old and 65+ age group. Females gender was the highest participants of the survey at 79% and 48% age group at 50-64 years old. The majority own their own home at 69% of the respondents, and 90% were of white race. The average income was 75,000 + at 74%. The language spoke most was at 100% English. No household surveyed was currently in the Armed Forces or a Military Veteran. The source of income in the household were 78.9% full-time employment. The highest level of education was equally between having a Bachelor's Degree and Post-Graduate Degree at 42.1 %.

The above data from the community assessment differs from RECAP's clientele demographics in which we serve. Majority of clients we serve in this community are living below or at poverty level and do not own homes and do not make substantially amount of funds in living wages. The survey does not show the true reflection of the community needs and level of sustainable income. More needs assessments are needed and more involvement with the individuals who really represent the cities and towns of Orange of the household needs.

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