



CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON
COMMUNITY SERVICES

COMMUNITY ACTION 2025 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025

Report adopted November 2025

Message from the director and board chair

Dear Friends of Clark County Community Action:

Community Action's promise is to change and improve the lives of the approximately 50,000 people living in poverty in Clark County. Clark County Community Services is working hard to meet this promise by funding the programs and services needed by low-income households and making sure the administration of the funded programs is responsive, efficient and effective. The effectiveness of these programs is increased by valuing every person served and is accomplished most efficiently by programs treating everyone they serve with dignity and respect. Last year, in partnership with several nonprofit agencies, Community Services helped more than 10,000 people meet their basic needs. Here are a few examples of work being done in our community:

- Council for the Homeless' Housing Solutions Center (HSC) assessed over 2,000 households for housing programs such as prevention assistance, rapid rehousing, tenant-based rental assistance, and permanent supportive housing in FY2025. The HSC also provided diversion services for households experiencing homelessness or who were unstably housed. With this assistance, 385 households were diverted from the homeless crisis response system.
- Share manages a meal and nutrition program which aims to address the immediate food needs of children and low-income community members in Clark County through four major facets: the Backpack Program, Fresh Food Pantries, the Summer Meals Program, and the Hot Meals Program. The Backpack Program provides at least 25,500 food bags for students to take home during the school year through partnership with 83 schools from 8 school districts. The Fresh Food Pantries is an expansion of the Backpack program, providing students and their families access to 16 school-based food pantry sites. The Summer Meals program provides over 12,000 free lunches to students during the summer months at 20 open meal sites. The Hot Meals program provides three meals per day at the Share House shelter and serves 95,000 meals per year.
- Community Services NW (CSNW) operates the SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) program in Clark County, a nationally recognized program that helps people with disabilities apply for Social Security. CSNW provides direct assistance to people applying for benefits and coordinates training for all SOAR certified advocates in Clark County. In FY2025, CSNW served 250 individuals and helped file 31 applications for benefits.

To ensure future program funding is responsive to local needs, Clark County Community Services conducts an analysis every three years of the community's needs as identified by those in need. The most recent Community Needs Assessment, adopted in 2024, guided the county process that started last fall for program funding of services related to poverty.

Clark County's data from the Homeless Management Information System shows that people of color are more likely to request help and less likely to receive it when they do. In response to these findings, Clark County Community Services is working internally and within the community to better understand the impacts of poverty and access to services for these community members. All department staff have been involved in training to ensure services provided in our community take into consideration the needs of the different populations, working to meet the specific needs of everyone living in poverty, and include all the voices of those impacted by the services provided in our community.

As always, thank you to the volunteers and staff of the many organizations who collaborate with Community Action as we continue to provide innovative services to improve the lives of those in our community.

Vanessa R. Gaston, director
Rob Perkins, board chair

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Please note: This report focuses on programs funded by Community Action. They are only some of the community efforts to help families be stable and thrive.

COMMUNITY ACTION OVERVIEW

On January 8, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson enacted the “war on poverty.” He believed that poverty had to be addressed at the local level and created the Community Action Network of national and locally focused anti-poverty organizations. Clark County Community Services is the designated Community Action Agency for the area. As the Community Action Agency, Clark County Community Services distributes funds to local nonprofit organizations to support programs which help alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in the county.

The Promise of Community Action: Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Source: National Community Action Partnership

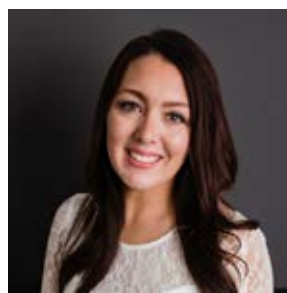
2025 COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD

The Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) is comprised of at least fifteen members representing a cross section of the community. Board membership includes low-income residents, elected officials, and the general community. The CAAB advocates on behalf of people who are low-income at the state and federal levels to ensure services are available and equitable. Part of this work involves advising county staff and the Clark County Councilors on the needs, concerns and programs for people who are low-income. The board also helps conduct the triennial Community Needs Assessment and Survey of Needs to guide funding recommendations for programs operated by community-based organizations. All services funded through the advisory board must address essential human needs and help move people toward self-sufficiency.

Elected Officials



Rob Perkins,
Evergreen Public Schools
Board member, District 3, CAAB Chair



Katie Favela,
Ridgefield City Councilor,
District 5

Not pictured:

Diana Perez, Vancouver City Councilor, District 1

Sandra Zavala-Ortega, Vancouver Public Schools Board President, District 2

Ernie Suggs, Washougal City Councilor, District 4

Low-Income Representatives



Emily Wilson, District 2



Clover Spears, District 3



Megan Mulsoff, District 4

Not pictured:

Brondalyn Clark, District 1

Faye Solomone, District 5

Community Representatives



Lilly Pidhainyi, District 2



Nickeia Hunter, District 3



Melanie Green,
District 4, CAAB Vice Chair



Brittini Lasseigne, District 5

Not pictured:

Amy Roark, District 1, CAAB Secretary

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Community-Based Organizations

Area Agency on Aging and Disability	Lifeline Connections
Battle Ground Healthcare (free clinic)	Lighthouse Community Resource Center
BIPOC Legislative Workgroup	Meals on Wheels
Bridgeview Housing	National Alliance on Mental Illness
Cascade AIDS Project	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Vancouver Chapter
Children's Home Society	Native American Youth and Family Center
Children's Home Society—East County Family Resource Center	NorthWest Justice Project
Children's Home Society—Triple Point	Odyssey World International Education Services
Clark County Community Services Youth House	Outsiders Inn
Clark County Food Bank and 35 pantries	Oxford Houses
Clark County Veterans Assistance Center	Partners in Careers
Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program	PEACE NW
Columbia River Mental Health Services	Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette
Community Foundation for SW Washington	Public Health Fourth Plain Coalition
Community in Motion	REACH Community Development
Consumer Voices are Born	Recovery Café Clark County
Council for the Homeless	Rent Well
Crisis Collaborative Meeting	Scholar Fund
Educational Opportunities for Children and Families	Sea Mar-Community Services NW
Evergreen Habitat for Humanity	Second Step Housing
Family Promise of Clark County	Severe Weather Shelters Network
Fourth Plain Forward	Share Vancouver
Free Clinic of SW Washington	Smith Tower Senior Housing
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	SW Accountable Community of Health
Impact NW	SW WA Equity Coalition
Innovative Services NW	Trillium Employment
Janus Youth Programs	YWCA Clark County
Latino Community Resource Group (LCRG)	

Educational Institutions

Clark College	Homeless School Liaison at Hockinson Public Schools
Family-Community Resource Centers through Battle Ground Public Schools	Homeless School Liaison at La Center Public Schools
Family-Community Resource Centers through Evergreen Public Schools	Homeless School Liaison at Mt Pleasant Public Schools
Family-Community Resource Centers through Vancouver Public Schools	Homeless School Liaison at Ridgefield Public Schools
Homeless School Liaison at Battle Ground Public Schools	Homeless School Liaison at the School for the Blind
Homeless School Liaison at Camas Public Schools	Homeless School Liaison at the School for the Deaf
Homeless School Liaison at Evergreen Public Schools	Homeless School Liaison at Vancouver Public Schools
	Homeless School Liaison at Washougal Public Schools

Faith-Based Organizations

Catholic Community Services (Bertha's Shelters)	Open House Ministries
Friends of the Carpenter	The Salvation Army
Interfaith Coalition	Winter Hospitality Overflow Faith-Based Organizations
Islamic Society of SW Washington	Xchange Recovery Church
Lord's Gym	
Lutheran Community Services NW	

Private Sector Organizations

Carelon Behavioral Health	PeaceHealth NW
Molina Healthcare	WorkSource
Opioid Taskforce Meeting	WorkSource NEXT Center

Public Sector Organizations

Clark County Public Health	Jail Re-Entry Program
Clark Public Utility	Jail Workforce Center
Cowlitz Tribe	Neighborhood Associations of Clark County
Department of Social and Health Services	Neighborhood Associations of Vancouver
Educational Service District 112	Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Family Youth System Partner Round Table	Vancouver Housing Authority
Fort Vancouver Community Libraries	Washington State Community Action Partnership

FUNDING OVERVIEW

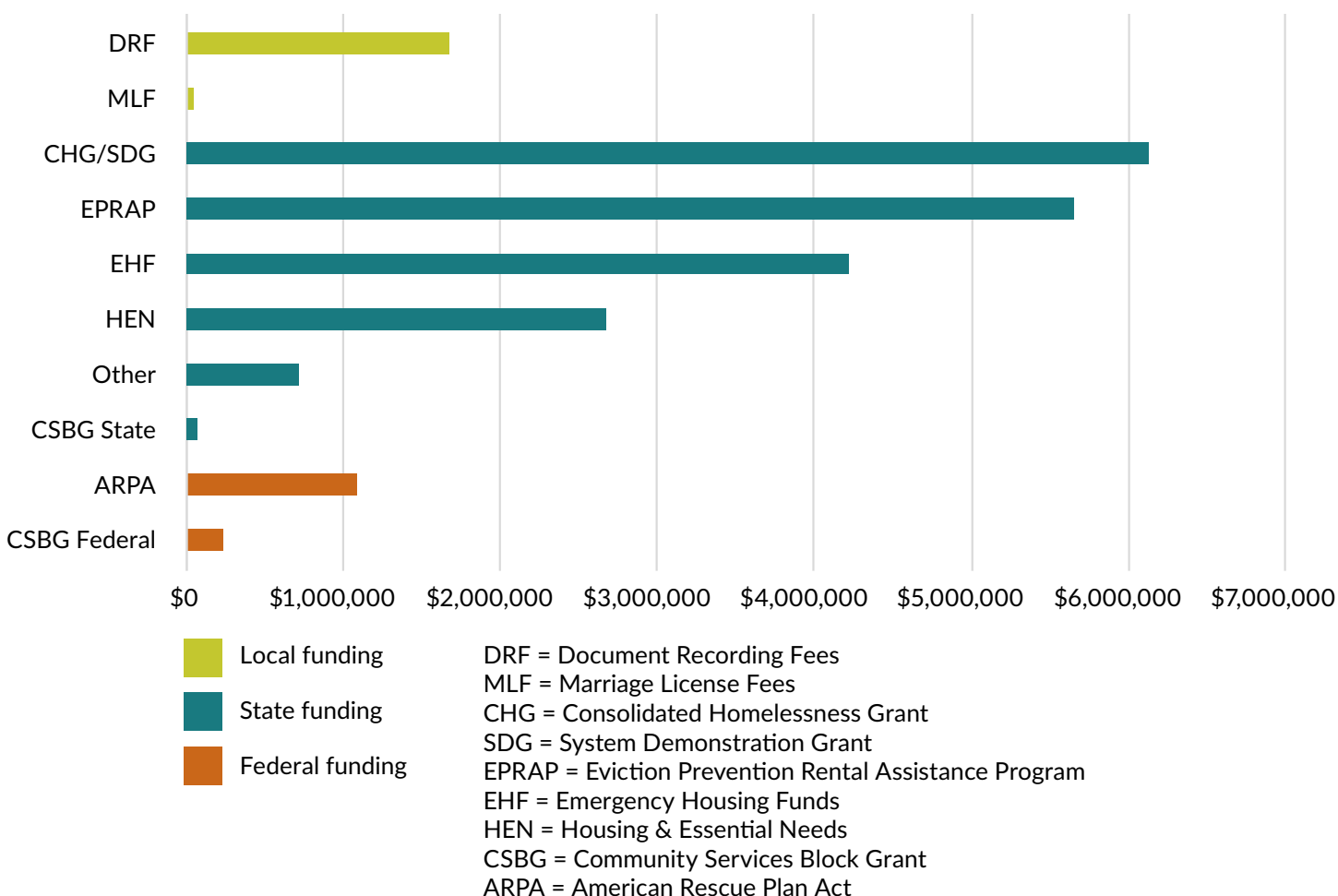
Program Funding Cycle

Every three years, a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) is conducted as required by Community Services Block Grant Act legislation. The information collected is used to guide priorities for future funding. Clark County Community Services combines local, state and federal funds designated for homeless and low-income services into a Request for Application (RFA) process conducted after each Needs Assessment is completed. Local nonprofit organizations apply for funding to support programs that serve those who are low-income and/or experiencing housing instability and meet county grant requirements.

Staff members review each application for agency qualifications and program eligibility. The Community Action Advisory Board reviews applications and listens to presentations from agencies to determine the most responsive and best-fit programs for the community. Each application is scored and ranked, and the highest scoring programs are recommended to the county council for funding. After council approval, two-year contracts are executed and are renewable for one additional year. The most recent Request for Application was conducted from October 2024–June 2025. Programs awarded will run from July 1, 2025–June 30, 2027 with an option to extend programs for a third year.

FY2025 Funding

Each year, Clark County provides a combination of local, state and federal funding to Community Action programs. If the sources are broken down, local funding made up 8 percent, state funding made up 86 percent and federal funding made up 6 percent of money allocated to programs in FY2025.



FY2025 Funded Programs

The following programs were funded through Community Action in FY2025.

Detailed descriptions of each funding type can be found [here \(PDF\)](#). More information about program outcomes can be found [here \(PDF\)](#).

Community Action Programs

PHYSICAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Agency: Battle Ground Healthcare
Program: Dental Expansion
Description: Increases access to dental services by hiring a part-time dentist to supplement the services provided by existing volunteer dentists.

Agency: New Life Recovery Services
Program: Food Assistance
Description: Provides regular prepared meals to the public at their community center and snacks, meals and food boxes for youth participating in their programs.

Agency: Share
Program: Hunger Response
Description: Provides food through four components: daily meals to the public (Hot Meals), weekend food packages for students (Backpack), access to food pantries at 16 schools (Fresh Food Pantries), and sack lunches on weekdays at 14 sites in the summer (Summer Meals).

SUPPORT SERVICES

Agency: 211 info
Program: Information Specialist
Description: Provides free and easy access to referrals for food, shelter, housing, foreclosure assistance, health care, and more.

Agency: Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program
Program: Access to Justice
Description: Facilitates civil legal aid for people who are low income through volunteer and staff attorneys. Programs included Family Law, Housing Justice, Survivor Support, and a variety of other civil legal services.

Agency: Community Foundation for SW WA
Program: Social Justice and Resiliency Fund
Description: Provides grants to nonprofit organizations serving BIPOC communities to build their capacity and infrastructure to serve and improve outcomes of historically underserved communities.

Agency: Lutheran Community Services NW
Program: Refugee Stabilization
Description: Supports and stabilizes newly arriving refugees through rent and housing assistance, utility aid, transportation, healthcare, food, employment barrier-removal, clothing, etc.

Homeless Crisis Response System

SYSTEM COORDINATION AND DATA COLLECTION

Agency: Council for the Homeless
Program: Community Planning
Description: CFTH serves as the primary coordinating body for progressing the Clark County Homeless Action Plan and addressing homeless system issues in Clark County.

Agency: Council for the Homeless
Program: HMIS
Description: CFTH oversees the implementation, training and TA for HMIS, the primary data collection software for HCRS and CAP programs.

Agency: Council for the Homeless
Program: Housing Solutions Center
Description: The Housing Solutions Center serves as coordinated assessment for the Clark County homeless system.

CORE SUPPORT SERVICES

Agency: SeaMar (CSNW)
Program: SOAR Program
Description: Helps individuals who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless and living with a disability rapidly apply for and access SSI/SSDI entitlements.

Agency: Share
Program: Rent Well
Description: 15-hour course that educates tenants on their rights and responsibilities, providing resources and tools to promote housing stability.

OUTREACH SERVICES

Agency: Council for the Homeless
Program: Coordinated Outreach
Description: CFTH serves as the primary coordinating body for homeless outreach services and is responsible for addressing homeless system issues in Clark County.

Agency: Outsider's Inn
Program: Project Hope Homeless Outreach
Description: Peer-driven homeless outreach program that addresses basic needs while assisting individuals to identify barriers and empower them to take steps towards safe and stable housing.

Agency: Share
Program: Homeless Outreach
Description: Staff experienced in physical and/or behavioral health services provide housing-focused, low barrier services to persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

SHELTER SERVICES

Agency: Catholic Community Services
Program: Non-congregate shelter
Description: Low barrier, housing focused shelter. Bertha's Place is non-congregate shelter and Bertha's Too is congregate shelter. This program includes COVID funding.

Agency: Council for the Homeless
Program: Motel Vouchers
Description: Provides motel vouchers for temporary shelter for households who are prioritized by vulnerability.

Agency: Janus Youth
Program: Oak Bridge Shelter
Description: Emergency housing for youth ages 9 to 17 who are single and homeless. The program seeks to reunite, strengthen and create a safer community.

Agency: Janus Youth
Program: The Perch Shelter
Description: Drop-in center designed to meet the needs of street-affected youth ages 15–24 to facilitate a permanent exit from street life.

Agency: Outsider's Inn
Program: St. Paul Men's Shelter
Description: Housing focused, low barrier shelter during weekday evenings and 24-hour shelter on weekends at St. Paul's Church.

Agency: Share
Program: Homestead Shelter
Description: Housing focused, year-round, low-barrier shelter for women and families.

Agency: Share
Program: Orchards Inn Shelter
Description: Housing focused, year-round, low-barrier shelter for women and families.

Agency: Share
Program: Share House Shelter
Description: Housing focused, year-round, low-barrier shelter for men.

Agency: Share
Program: WHAT Shelter
Description: Housing focused, year-round, low-barrier shelter for single women over 18 years old.

Agency: Share
Program: WHO Shelter
Description: Low-barrier, temporary shelter from November through March with housing focused case management services.

Agency: YWCA
Program: SafeChoice Domestic Violence Shelter
Description: Provides 24-hour crisis line, shelter, advocacy, support group, safety planning, and community education for survivors of domestic violence.

RENT ASSISTANCE—PREVENTION

- Agency:** Cascade AIDS
Program: Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Program
Description: Provides rental assistance and addresses housing barriers through housing stability plans, crisis resolution, and connections to community resources.
- Agency:** Council for the Homeless
Program: Targeted Prevention through Diversion
Description: Households facing eviction or living in unstable situations receive assistance to reduce barriers and secure permanent stable housing.
- Agency:** Impact NW
Program: Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Program
Description: Provides rental assistance and addresses housing barriers through housing stability plans, crisis resolution, and connections to community resources.
- Agency:** Janus Youth
Program: Bridges Targeted Prevention
Description: Youth-focused rent assistance program to assist households facing imminent eviction or living in unstable, temporary situations.
- Agency:** Janus Youth
Program: Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Program
Description: Provides rental assistance and addresses housing barriers through housing stability plans, crisis resolution, and connections to community resources.
- Agency:** NAYA Family Center
Program: Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Program
Description: Provides rental assistance and addresses housing barriers through housing stability plans, crisis resolution, and connections to community resources.
- Agency:** Pacific Islander Community Association of WA
Program: Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Program
Description: Provides rental assistance and addresses housing barriers through housing stability plans, crisis resolution, and connections to community resources.
- Agency:** Share
Program: Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Program
Description: Provides rental assistance and addresses housing barriers through housing stability plans, crisis resolution, and connections to community resources.
- Agency:** YWCA
Program: Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Program
Description: Provides rental assistance and addresses housing barriers through housing stability plans, crisis resolution, and connections to community resources.

RENT ASSISTANCE—TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Agency: New Life Friends Church
Program: The Rock
Description: Provides recovery homes to promote stability and supports to those with substance use disorders.

Agency: New Life Friends Church
Program: Samaritan House
Description: Provides recovery homes to promote stability and supports to those with substance use disorders.

Agency: YWCA
Program: Transitional Housing
Description: Provides housing and housing stability supports for households who are literally homeless, attempting to flee, or actively fleeing domestic violence at the time of assessment.

RENT ASSISTANCE—RAPID REHOUSING

Agency: Impact NW
Program: Rapid Rehousing
Description: Scattered-site housing and stability supports for persons who are literally homeless.

Agency: Janus Youth
Program: Rapid Rehousing
Description: Scattered-site housing and stability supports for youth up to age 25.

Agency: Lifeline Connections
Program: Rapid Rehousing
Description: Scattered-site housing and stability supports for people with behavioral health needs.

Agency: Share
Program: Housing and Essential Needs (HEN)
Description: Scattered-site housing and stability supports for persons who are literally homeless.

Agency: Share
Program: Rapid Rehousing
Description: Scattered-site housing and stability supports for persons who are literally homeless.

RENT ASSISTANCE—PERMANENT SUPPORTED HOUSING

Agency: Impact NW
Program: Permanent Supported Housing
Description: Scattered-site housing with supported services for housing stability for chronically homeless Veterans, individuals, and survivors of domestic violence.

Agency: Impact NW
Program: Permanent Supported Housing—HUD Match
Description: Provides additional supports to households in agency's HUD CoC program to cover stability supports not covered by HUD.

Agency: Share
Program: Lincoln Place
Description: Provides site-based supported services for housing stability for chronically homeless people and/or persons identified as most vulnerable in Clark County, in need of PSH.

Agency: Share
Program: Permanent Supported Housing
Description: Scattered-site housing providing Supported services for housing stability for chronically homeless people.

Agency: Share
Program: Permanent Supported Housing—HUD Match
Description: Provides additional supports to households in agency's HUD CoC program to cover stability supports not covered by HUD.

Value of volunteers

Community Action Programs used 1,695 volunteers and 29,725 volunteer hours to help operate their programs. 4,688 of these hours were donated by people who are low-income. This equates to a value of over \$595,000.

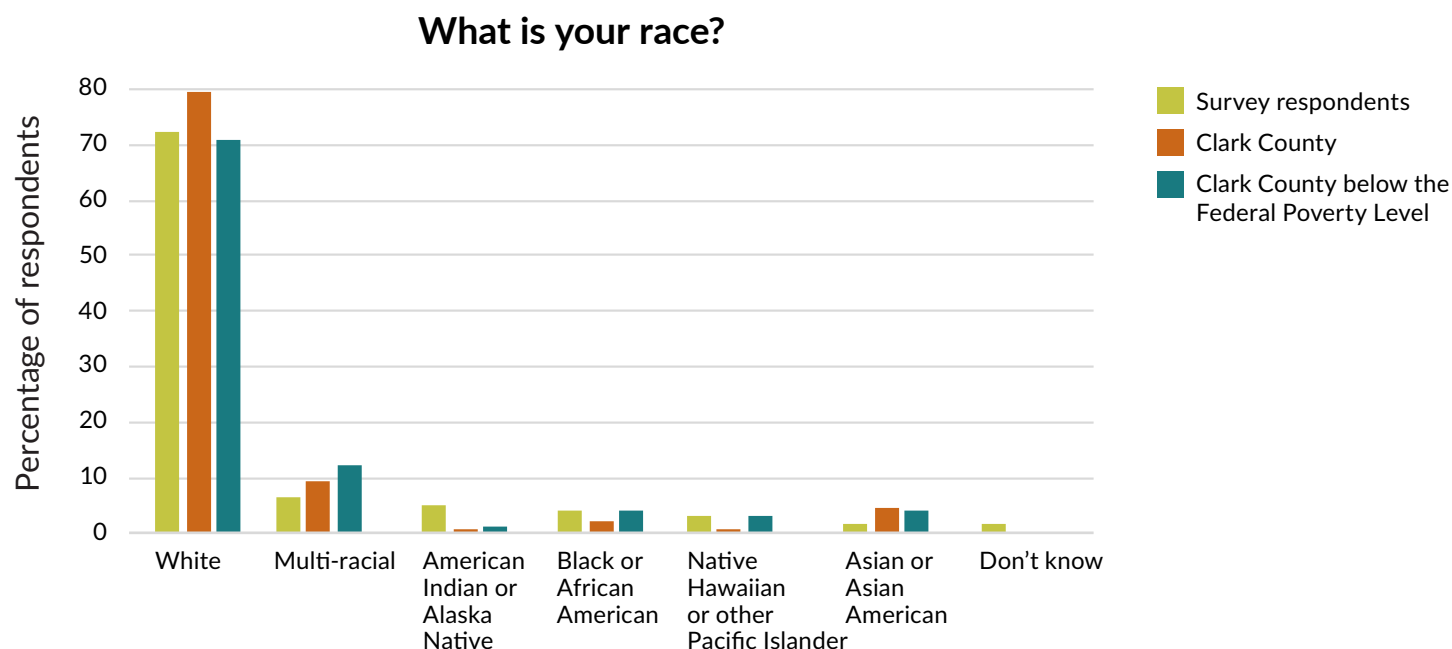
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The **Community Needs Assessment (CNA)** is an in-depth analysis completed every three years to learn about the needs of people living in poverty. The assessment is required under the Community Services Block Grant Act, which provides federal funds for the county's anti-poverty initiatives. The CNA includes information gathered through several different means: Survey of Needs data collected from low-income households; data from the American Community Survey federal data collection program; qualitative data collected from community feedback forums; and results of other local agency needs assessments.

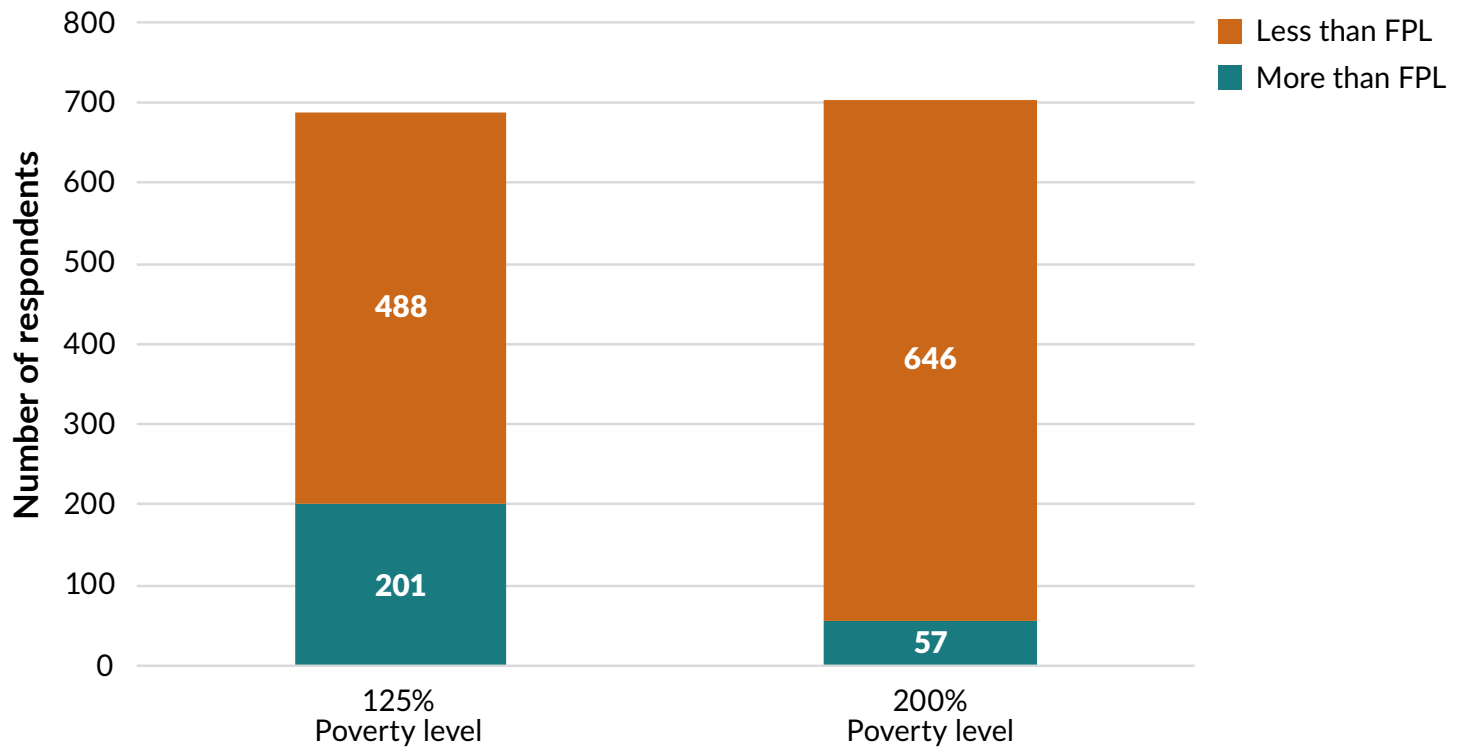
The county uses information collected in the assessment to understand the community's needs, inform future funding decisions, and guide policy and program decisions. Our hope is that other funding and nonprofits also will use the information for similar efforts. The final report was completed in late 2024 and distributed throughout Clark County. The full report is available [here](#).

Survey of Needs

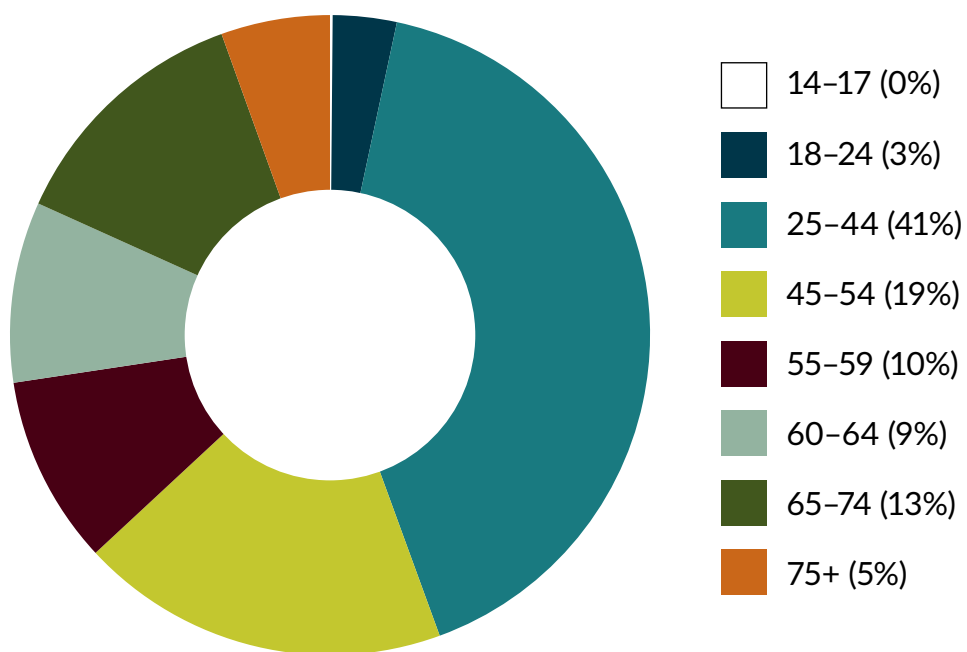
Clark County conducts an in-depth survey of households who identify as having a low income. All information is strictly confidential and optional. The survey was available in hard copy and online in multiple languages and was distributed through partnerships with over 100 organizations, through social media, news releases, local newspaper articles and distributed at several community meetings. Responses to the survey were collected from February 2, 2023, through April 14, 2023 and a total of **893 responses** were received. A brief overview of respondent demographics and needs is below.



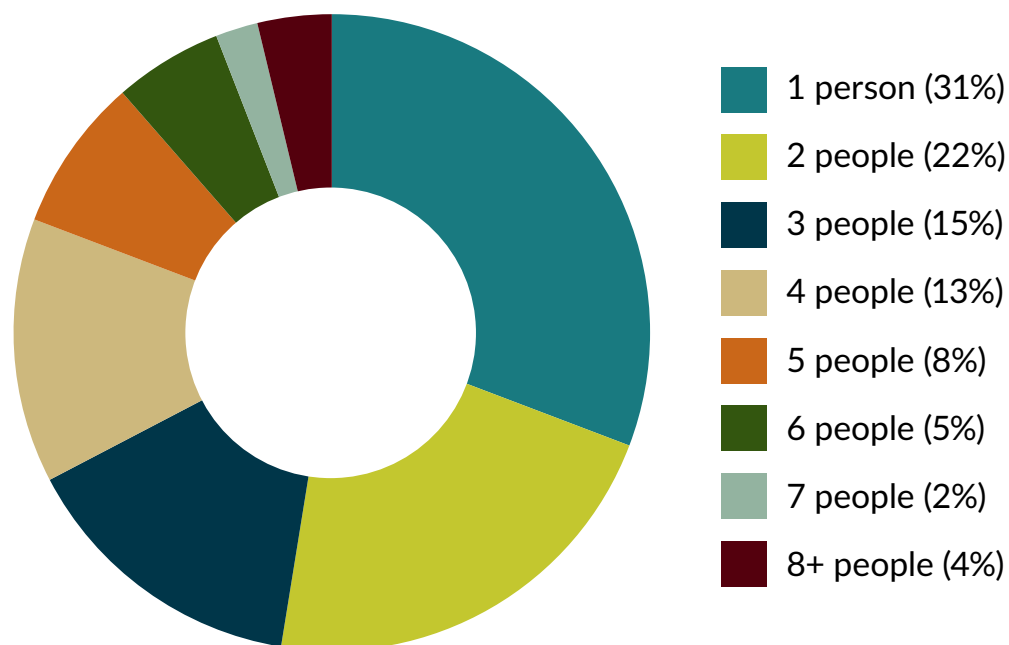
Does your family earn more or less income
than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)?



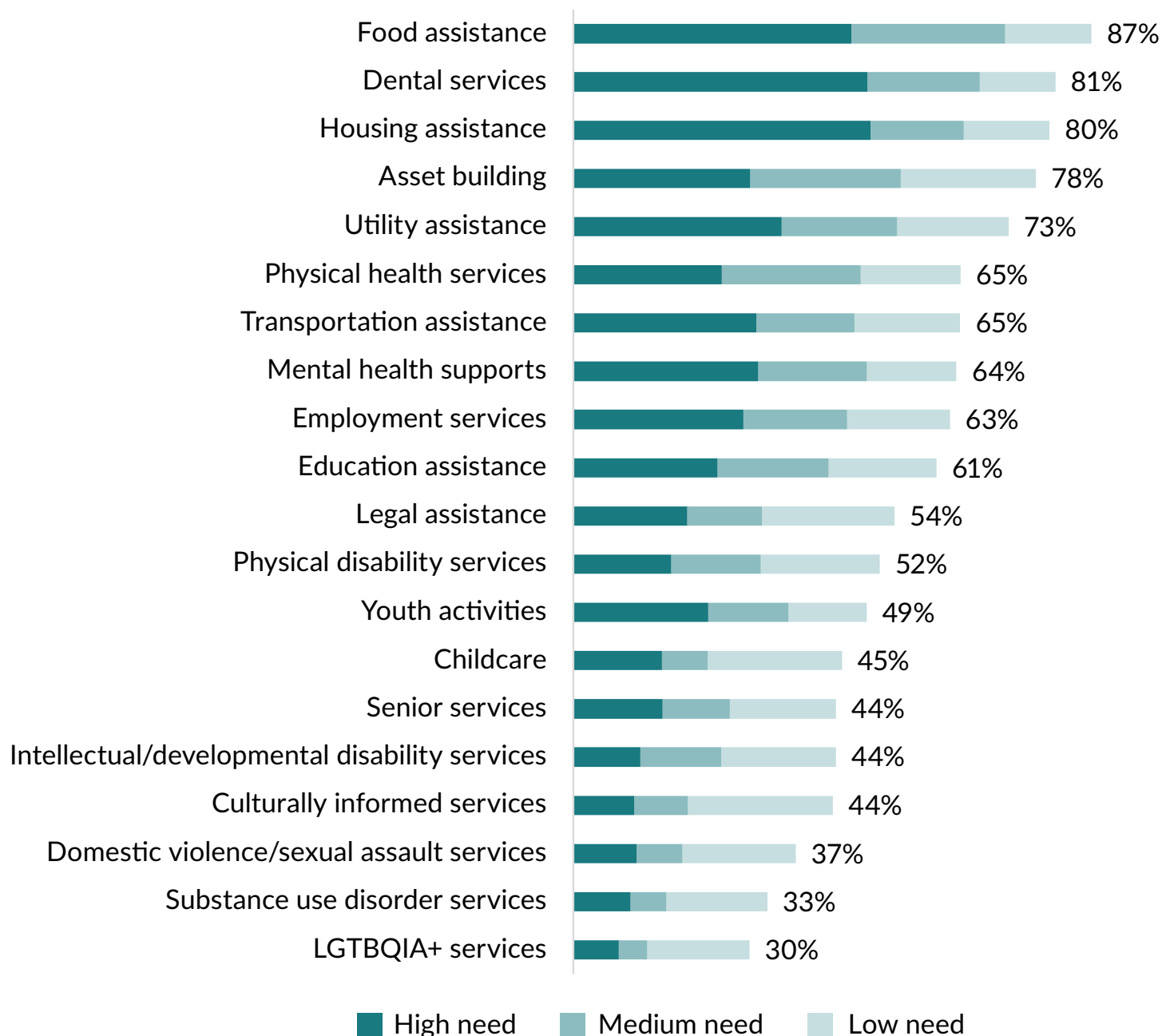
What is your age?



What is the size of your family?



The survey results and community forums highlighted several priority needs within the community. The figure below shows overall needs identified through the 2024 Community Needs Assessment, sorted by the proportion identifying any level of need (low, medium or high). Figures are based on the number of respondents who rated each of the twenty need areas, ranging from n=615 to n= 695.



How to get involved

If you are interested in helping with the next needs assessment process, please let us know. We want to make sure that everyone has a chance to identify the needs their household has so we can direct funding to the most appropriate and needed services. Please contact [Abby Molloy](#) if you would be interested in:

- Distributing surveys to people who are low income.
- Participating in focus groups and/or community forums to provide feedback on survey results.

COUNTY SNAPSHOT

In addition to information in the Community Needs Assessment, understanding the county's demographics, needs and resources as a whole is crucial.

Population

Clark County has experienced significant growth and diversification in recent years. According to American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-year estimates, the county's population was estimated at 510,516, marking a 7.8% increase from the 2015–2019 5-year estimate of 473,252. This growth reflects the county's vibrant and expanding community. The racial composition of Clark County is predominantly White (79.5%), with smaller percentages of Asian (4.7%), Black or African American (2.0%), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.8%), and American Indian and Alaska Native (0.6%). This is a larger white population and smaller Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) population when compared to the state, metropolitan area, and the nation. However, the diversity of Clark County continues to increase as the population grows.

Income and Poverty

In 2023, the median household income for Clark County was \$94,948 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The American Community Survey estimates that 7.5% of people in Clark County lived below the Federal Poverty Level* in 2023, marking a 5.1% decrease from 2013. The Census Bureau also estimates a 5.2% unemployment rate.

Education

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2023, 93 percent of Clark County residents had a high school diploma or higher. One third—33 percent—of residents have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Literacy data published by the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIACC) breaks adult literacy into three different "Levels." Those reported as Level 1 are at risk for being able to understand printed material. In Clark County, it is estimated that 14.2% of residents are at or below Level 1 for literacy.

Housing

According to the U.S. Census, there were a total of 212,833 housing units in Clark County in 2024, an increase of 36,979 (or 21.03%) since 2015 compared to a 12.55% increase statewide. Households are considered "cost burdened" if they pay more than 30% of total household income towards housing costs. In Clark County, 29.62% of the population lives in cost burdened households. Of these cost burdened households, 51.4% are rentals and 48.6% are owner-occupied. Furthermore, households of color are more likely to be cost burdened when compared with their white counterparts. For example, 46.9% of Black households in Clark County are estimated to be cost burdened compared with 29.2% of White households.

*The federal poverty level, or FPL, is an economic measure used to decide whether a person's or family's income level qualifies them for certain federal benefits and programs. The FPL is supposed to represent the set minimum income a family needs for food, clothing, transportation, shelter, and other necessities. However, the formula used to calculate the FPL has not been updated since its inception in the 1960s and does not take into account many of the costs common in today's society. For example, it does not take childcare costs into consideration, assuming that one parent will be home with children.

Quick Facts

- In 2023, 38,572 people, or 7.5% of the population, lived at or below the poverty level. People of color were disproportionately impacted, with 16.9% of people who identify as Black or African American and 29.2% of people who identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander living in poverty. (Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#))
- Washington State has the fifth highest housing wage in the nation. To afford an average two-bedroom apartment, a person needs to make \$36.33 per hour full time or work 92 hours per week at minimum wage. (Source: [nlihc.org](#))
- 148,515 unduplicated individuals received food through Clark County Food Bank and partner agency programs in 2024. (Source: [2024 Clark County Food Bank Annual Report](#))
- The Clark County Food Bank received over 10.1 million pounds of food in 2024. (Source: [Clark County Food Bank pdf](#))
- About 10.9% of Washington State's eviction cases occur in Clark County, even though the county only has about 6.6% of the state's population. (Source: [The Columbian](#))
- 8.8% of the Clark County population under 65 years has a disability, and 7.8% are without health insurance. 20.4% of people with a disability have income at or below the Federal Poverty Level. (Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#))
- Of adults living at or below the Federal Poverty Level in Clark County, 15% have less than a high school degree, 35% have a high school degree, 33% have some college or associates degree, and 17% have a bachelor's degree or higher. (Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#))
- In Clark County, the highest median wage workers are software developers at \$76.22 per hour while the lowest median wage workers earn \$17.33 at fast food establishments, a difference of \$59 per hour. (Source: [nlihc.org](#))

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Clark County Community Services plays a key role in our community, providing federal, state and local funding to the county's most vulnerable. The department serves a wide range of needs, including homelessness assistance, mental health and substance use crisis services, employment and early intervention for those with developmental disabilities, youth support programs and community development activities.

The department completed its strategic plan process in 2024. The plan development involved a comprehensive analysis of community needs, stakeholder input, and data collection including surveys, community leader interviews, youth, and service recipient engagement to identify strategic priorities that will direct efforts and resources for the next five years. The report is available on Clark County's [website](#).

Planning is one of six important steps in the Results-Oriented Management and Accountability process. ROMA is a performance-based initiative designed to preserve the anti-poverty focus of community action and promote greater effectiveness among state and local agencies that receive Community Services Block Grant funds.

Mission Statement

The mission of Clark County Community Services is to empower and uplift our community by providing essential support, resources, and opportunities aimed at overcoming barriers to ensure a stable, healthy, and engaged community for all.

Vision

We are dedicated to fostering a culture of empathy, service, and accountability, where the dignity of every individual is upheld, and the interconnectedness of our well-being is recognized. Through strategic partnerships, we commit to enhancing economic security and well-being, addressing the root causes of poverty, and building a foundation for a prosperous future.

Objectives

Some of the objectives include:

1. To address housing insecurity and combat poverty
2. To improve behavioral health and well-being
3. To cultivate inclusive community engagement
4. To strengthen support systems

Guiding Principles

Some of the guiding principles include:



INTEGRITY: We commit to transparency, honesty, and ethical behavior in all our interactions. We hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards of public trust and stewardship.



COMPASSION: Our services are delivered with empathy and a deep understanding of the human experience. We approach each individual's situation with sensitivity, seeking to empower rather than patronize.



INCLUSIVITY: We recognize the strength that comes from diversity and strive to create spaces where every individual can contribute and belong. We work to ensure that all voices are heard and valued in the fabric of our community.



SERVICE: At our core, we are public servants. We exist to serve the community of Clark County, to improve lives, and to contribute to the public good. Our dedication to service is unwavering and defines our path forward.



INNOVATION: We embrace creativity and are committed to finding new and effective ways to meet the challenges of our community. We encourage experimentation and learning, understanding that progress often requires a departure from the conventional.



COLLABORATION: We believe in the power of partnerships and collective action. By working together with individuals, private funders, elected officials, organizations, and sectors, we can achieve outcomes that are greater than the sum of our parts.



RESILIENCE: We aim to foster a community that is adaptable and robust, capable of withstanding challenges and bouncing back stronger. We invest in the social and economic foundations that support long-term sustainability.

COMMUNITY ACTION CONTACT INFORMATION

This report and additional information about Clark County's Community Action Program can be found [online](#). Program staff members work for Clark County Community Services and can be reached at 564.397.2130.

- [Vanessa R. Gaston](#), director
- [Michael A. Torres](#), program manager, Community Action, Housing and Development
- [Abby Molloy](#), program coordinator, Community Action

For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office:

Voice: 564.397.2322 / Relay: 711 or 800.833.6388 / Fax: 564.397.6165 / Email: ADA@clark.wa.gov

For more information about available services in Clark County, please call 2-1-1 or visit 211info.org