CEDA 2011 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A report documenting the results of a Suburban Cook County Community Needs Assessment Survey conducted on behalf of the Community Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA)

SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

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CEDA 2011 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
COMMUNITY NEEDS ANALYSIS RESULTS BY SERVICE AREA

NORTHWEST COMMUNITIES

The Northwest survey sample was derived from the twenty-one (21) cities, villages or towns located in northwest suburban Cook County comprised of approximately seven hundred eighty-five thousand (785,000) residents.

Arlington Heights   Elk Grove   Rolling Meadows
Barrington        Hanover     Roselle
Barrington Hills  Hoffman Estates Schaumburg
Bartlett          Inverness   South Barrington
Buffalo Grove     Palatine    Streamwood
Des Plaines       Park Ridge  Wheeling
Elgin             Prospect Heights

THE SAMPLE

The Northwest sample size is five hundred and three (503) individuals segmented into five target profile groups. The survey results for the Northwest community have a confidence level of 95% and a confidence interval of +/-4.4%. For the purpose of survey collection, each profile group was assigned a numeric goal that reflects the current demographic composition in the Northwest communities, i.e. of the 500 collected surveys 60 must be senior adults, 39% male 61% female.

1) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, without minor children currently residing in the home;

2) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, with minor children currently residing in the home;

3) Senior adults, age sixty-five (65) and over;

3) Community business owners; and

5) Youth, ages thirteen (13) to seventeen (17).

In addition, particular effort was made to ensure that 30% of the sample household representation that met the current poverty threshold for eligibility for CEDA programs (below 125% percent of poverty) and thus would reflect the needs of a CEDA client.
THE SURVEY

The community needs assessment survey was designed to collect three specific sets of data or information from respondents, to identify and rank the unique needs of their respective communities, provide insight and perceptions about particular needs and services that exist in their community and to share their individual and family household needs and experiences within the community.

THE RESULTS

Provided in this section are the results of the first specific set of response results from the community needs assessment survey that allows respondents to identify and rank the unique needs of the community they live in. The questionnaire provided for multiple choice, ranking and open-ended formats to gauge the highest community needs, the most urgent community needs and the most serious issues facing youth ages thirteen to seventeen. For adult respondents there were two additional questions in this section related to their perceptions of the conditions and challenges related to attaining self-sufficiency and unemployment in their communities.
87.4% of respondents living in the Northwest communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

*Adult Respondents Only*

- **43.2%** Affordable Housing i.e. decent, affordable and safe rental units for individuals and families, retirement/assisted living
- **41.2%** Housing counseling i.e. homeownership, the homeless, foreclosure prevention, access to affordable rental housing
- **40.2%** Employment Training i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.
- **40.2%** Emergency Assistance i.e. utilities, rent, food, financial assistance, housing
- **40.0%** After School Programs i.e. supervised activities such as tutoring, performing arts, sports and recreation
- **39.9%** Youth Services i.e. services that support the positive development of adolescents offering programs that focus on healthy individual, social, educational experiences and community involvement.
- **39.2%** Transportation Services i.e. public transportation, bus, train, subway, bike trails, etc.
83.3% of youth respondents living in Northwest communities report that overall they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

Youth Respondents Only

- **33.3%** Personal Financial Education and Counseling i.e. credit counseling, budgeting, investing, banking, retirement planning
- **29.2%** After School Programs i.e. supervised activities such as tutoring, performing arts, sports and recreation
- **25.0%** Accessible Health and Wellness Services i.e. nutrition, fitness, preventive disease education/counseling, parenting classes
- **25.0%** Substance Abuse Services i.e. prevention and treatment for alcohol and drug addiction for individuals and their families
- **25.0%** Emergency Assistance i.e. utilities, rent, food, financial assistance, housing
- **25.0%** Public Safety i.e. police, block-watch programs, fire prevention education, traffic safety, food safety, sanitation, etc.
- **25.0%** Retail/ Commercial Business i.e. full service grocery stores, hardware stores, clothing stores, gas stations, restaurants


CEDA 2011 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
COMMUNITY NEEDS ANALYSIS RESULTS BY SERVICE AREA

MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Adult Respondents Only

62.7% Summer Job Opportunities i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships
59.2% Drug Use i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.
53.1% Violence i.e. domestic/family, dating violence, bullying, etc.
50.9% Medical Health i.e. affordable preventative care/screenings/ education for dental, vision, etc.
48.3% Gang Activity
46.7% Educational i.e. school achievement maintains or excels at grade level, graduating high school, college preparation
46.7% Life skill development i.e. career planning, budgeting, banking, personal grooming, traveling and communication

MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Youth Respondents Only

58.3% Drug Use i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.
58.3% Summer Job Opportunities i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships etc.
45.8% Affordable recreational activities i.e. community based cultural activities, performing arts, martial arts, travel, camps
45.5% Nutrition & Fitness i.e. healthy eating, getting enough exercise
39.1% Educational i.e. school achievement, maintains or excels at grade level, graduating high school, college preparation
39.1% Violence i.e. domestic/family, dating violence, bullying, etc.
37.5% Supportive role models and positive adult interaction i.e. mentoring
MOST URGENT NEEDS

In an open-ended question format, all respondents were asked to report, in their own words, the six (6) most urgent needs to address in their community. The following represent the six (6) community needs were identified as the most urgent needs among this sample of Northwest community residents:

1. **Employment.** Survey respondents pointed to the need for jobs for adult residents of their community. Equally as often they reported summer youth employment as an urgent need.

2. **Healthcare.** Respondents report affordable and accessible healthcare as an urgent need in their community. Healthcare includes preventative health and wellness, medical care mental health and substance abuse treatment.

3. **Programs for Youth.** Specifically, mentoring, summer youth employment, life skill training and affordable recreation.

4. **Education.** Respondents cite the need for educational support to address student retention and academic achievement.

The following “needs” were reported equally as often:

5. **Affordable Housing.** Reported as the need for affordable housing solutions for those in rental housing and those faced with foreclosure.

   **Nutrition & Fitness.**

   **Teen Pregnancy.**

   **Criminal Activity.**

   **Violence.** The need is reported as domestic violence, gang violence, as well as bullying amongst adolescents.

6. **Emergency Assistance.** Described as the emergency services related to rental payments/housing assistance, food, utility assistance and medical costs for those in need.
GREATEST CHALLENGES THAT EXIST FOR ADULTS WHO WANT TO BECOME MORE “SELF-SUFFICIENT”

Adult Respondents Only

57.5% Unemployment.

54.3% High rent or mortgage costs.

45.1% Low paying jobs.

43.7% Lack of affordable housing.

42.8% Lack of affordable childcare.

32.3% Too few jobs are available for their skill level.

31.4% They don’t know where to go for help to change their circumstances.

THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN MY COMMUNITY (Top 3)

Adult Respondents Only

81.3% There are not enough jobs.

35.8% Jobs do not offer a livable wage or only part time work is available.

29.2% Jobseeker skills don’t match the job requirements.

As a point of interest, the next three most often reported causes are:

24.6% Lack of work experience.

24.3% Lack of childcare.

21.4% Jobseekers can’t afford transportation to get to jobs or appointments.
FAR SOUTH COMMUNITIES

The Far South survey sample was derived from the seventeen (17) cities, villages or towns located in south suburban Cook County comprised of approximately two hundred thirty-one thousand (231,000) residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calumet City</th>
<th>Olympia Fields</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago Heights</td>
<td>Park Forest</td>
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<td>Flossmoor</td>
<td>Richton Park</td>
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<td>Ford Heights</td>
<td>Sauk Village</td>
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<td>Glenwood</td>
<td>South Chicago Heights</td>
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<td>Homewood</td>
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<td>Lansing</td>
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<td>Lynwood</td>
<td>University Park</td>
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THE SAMPLE

The Far South sample size is five hundred and one (501) individuals segmented into five target profile groups. The survey results for the Far South communities have a confidence level of 95% and a confidence interval of +/-4.4%. For the purpose of survey collection, each profile group was assigned a numeric goal that reflects the current demographic composition in the far south communities, i.e. of the 500 collected surveys 60 must be senior adults, 39% male 61% female.

1) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, without minor children currently residing in the home;

2) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, with minor children currently residing in the home;

3) Senior adults, age sixty-five (65) and over;

3) Community business owners; and

5) Youth, ages thirteen (13) to seventeen (17).

In addition, particular effort was made to ensure that 30% of the sample household representation that met the current poverty threshold for eligibility for CEDA programs (below 125% percent of poverty) and thus would reflect the needs of a CEDA client.
THE SURVEY

The community needs assessment survey was designed to collect three specific sets of data or information from respondents, to identify and rank the unique needs of their respective communities, provide insight and perceptions about particular needs and services that exist in their community and to share their individual and family household needs and experiences within the community.

THE RESULTS

Provided in this section are the results of the first section of the community needs assessment survey that allows respondents to identify and rank the unique needs of the community they live in. The questionnaire provided for multiple choice, ranking and open-ended formats to gauge the highest community needs, the most urgent community needs and the most serious issues facing youth ages thirteen to seventeen. For adult respondents there were two additional questions in this section related to their perceptions of the conditions and challenges related to attaining self-sufficiency and unemployment in their communities.
64.7% of respondents living in the Far South communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

*Adult Respondents Only*

- **54.2%** Utility Assistance i.e. help paying for gas and electricity bills
- **53.7%** Job Development/Creation i.e. active recruitment to locate businesses that create jobs
- **52.6%** Emergency Assistance i.e. utilities, rent, food, financial assistance, housing
- **52.4%** Affordable Housing i.e. decent, affordable and safe rental units for individuals and families, retirement/assisted living
- **52.0%** Employment Training i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.
- **51.2%** Housing Counseling i.e. for homeownership, the homeless, foreclosure prevention, access to affordable rental housing
- **51.0%** After School Programs i.e. supervised activities such as tutoring, performing arts, sports and recreation
53.5% of youth respondents living in the Far South communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

*Youth Respondents Only*

- **58.1%** Public Safety i.e. police, block-watch programs, fire prevention education, traffic safety, food safety, sanitation, etc.
- **55.8%** Education Support i.e. tutoring, college entry ACT/SAT preparation, summer school, math/science/writing support programs
- **53.7%** Accessible Health and Wellness Services i.e. nutrition, fitness, preventive disease education/counseling, parenting classes
- **53.5%** Resident Involvement i.e. Neighborhood Block-watch, community clean-ups, community forums
- **46.5%** Emergency Assistance i.e. utilities, rent, food, financial assistance, housing
- **46.5%** Access to Technology i.e. computers in-home, library, etc.
- **44.1%** Employment Training i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.
MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Adult Respondents Only

81.6% Summer Job Opportunities i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships etc.

72.6% Drug Use i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.

71.5% Violence i.e. domestic/family, dating violence, bullying, etc.

69.1% Organized after school activities i.e. supervised sports, educational support, social leadership, community service etc.

68.4% Educational i.e. school achievement, maintains or excels at grade level, graduating high school, college preparation

68.3% Medical Health i.e. affordable preventative care/screenings/ education for dental, vision, etc.

67.7% Criminal Activity

MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Youth Respondents Only

76.2% Educational i.e. school achievement, maintains or excels at grade level, graduating high school, college preparation

73.8% Summer Job Opportunities i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships etc.

71.4% Criminal Activity

71.4% Drug Use i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.

70.7% Supportive role models and positive adult interaction i.e. mentoring

69.2% Gang Activity

69.1% Teen Pregnancy
MOST URGENT NEEDS

In an open-ended question format, all respondents were asked to report, in their own words, the six (6) most urgent needs to address in their community. The following represent the six (6) community needs were identified as the most urgent needs among this sample of Far South community residents:

1. **Jobs/ Employment Training.** Survey respondents pointed to the need for jobs as well as job training, job search and job placement services for adult residents in their community.

2. **Youth Service Programs.** These programs are defined as afterschool activities, life skill training, recreation, counseling, mentors/role models, and educational achievement support.

3. **Drugs.** Respondents report that drug use, drug activity and drug prevention are an urgent need.

4. **Education.** Addressing underachievement, supportive school services and general need for school improvement.

The following “needs” were reported equally as often:

5. **Affordable Housing.**
   - Gang Activity.
   - Teen Pregnancy.
   - Resident Involvement.
   - Support Services for Seniors and Families.

6. **Healthcare.** Respondents report the need for affordable and accessible healthcare as an urgent need in their community for the underinsured and the uninsured.
GREATEST CHALLENGES THAT EXIST FOR ADULTS WHO WANT TO BECOME MORE “SELF-SUFFICIENT”

Adult Respondents Only

64.9%  Unemployment

52.3%  High rent or mortgage costs

48.5%  Low paying jobs

48.0%  Too few jobs available for skill level

43.6%  Lack of education

39.0%  Lack of affordable housing

30.5%  Managing personal finances

THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN MY COMMUNITY (Top 3)

Adult Respondents Only

80.6%  Not enough jobs.

34.2%  Jobseeker skills don’t match the job requirements.

32.9%  Jobs do not offer a livable wage or only part time work is available.

As a point of interest, the next three most often reported causes are:

30.5%  There is no encouragement to work.

29.7%  Jobseekers can’t meet education requirements.

27.5%  Criminal record.
SOUTH COMMUNITIES

The South survey sample was derived from the thirteen (13) cities, villages or towns located in south suburban Cook County comprised of approximately one hundred sixty-six thousand (166,000) residents.

Burnham    Hazel Crest
Calumet City Markham
Country Club Hills Oak Forest
Dixmoor     Phoenix
Dolton      Riverdale
East Hazel Crest South Holland
Harvey

THE SAMPLE

The South sample size is five hundred and thirty-three (533) individuals segmented into five target profile groups. The survey results for the South communities have a confidence level of 95% and a confidence interval of +/−4.2%. For the purpose of survey collection, each profile group was assigned a numeric goal that reflects the current demographic composition in the south communities, i.e. of the 500 collected surveys 60 must be senior adults, 39% male 61% female.

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3) Community business owners; and

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In addition, particular effort was made to ensure that 30% of the sample household representation that met the current poverty threshold for eligibility for CEDA programs (below 125% percent of poverty) and thus would reflect the needs of a CEDA client.
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58.8% of respondents living in the South communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

Adult Respondents Only

- **58.7%** Emergency Assistance i.e. utilities, rent, food, financial assistance, housing
- **56.2%** Employment Training i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.
- **55.1%** After School Programs i.e. supervised activities such as tutoring, performing arts, sports and recreation
- **55.0%** Public Safety i.e. police, block-watch programs, fire prevention education, traffic safety, food safety, sanitation, etc.
- **54.9%** Utility Assistance i.e. help paying for gas and electricity bills
- **54.8%** Job Development/Creation i.e. active recruitment to locate businesses that create jobs
- **53.2%** Affordable Housing i.e. decent, affordable and safe rental units for individuals and families, retirement/assisted living
76.9% of youth respondents living in the South communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

Youth Respondent Only

- **76.9%** Personal Financial Education and Counseling i.e. credit counseling, budgeting, investing, banking, retirement planning
- **69.2%** Employment Training i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.
- **69.2%** Emergency Assistance i.e. utilities, rent, food, financial assistance, housing
- **61.5%** Substance Abuse Services i.e. prevention and treatment for alcohol and drug addiction for individuals and their families
- **61.5%** Community Amenities i.e. parks, museums, libraries, cultural centers, recreation centers, etc.
- **53.9%** Early Childhood Education i.e. formal pre-school learning/development for children 3 years and older such as Head Start
- **53.9%** Public Safety i.e. police, block-watch programs, fire prevention education, traffic safety, food safety, sanitation, etc.
MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Adult Respondents Only

82.6% **Summer Job Opportunities** i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work internships etc.

73.6% **Drug Use** i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.

72.9% **Violence** i.e. domestic/family, dating violence, bullying, etc.

71.7% **Organized after school activities** i.e. supervised sports, educational support, social leadership, community service etc.

71.6% **Supportive role models and positive adult interaction** i.e. mentoring

70.4% **Affordable recreational activities** i.e. community based cultural activities, performing arts, martial arts, travel, camps

70.2% **Medical Health** i.e. affordable preventative care/screenings/ education for dental, vision, etc.

MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Youth Respondents Only

92.3% **Teen Pregnancy**

92.3% **Nutrition & Fitness** i.e. healthy eating, getting enough exercise

92.3% **Organized after school activities** i.e. supervised sports, educational support, social leadership, community service etc.

92.3% **Drug Use** i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.

91.7% **Summer Job Opportunities** i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships etc.

84.6% **Supportive role models and positive adult interaction** i.e. mentoring

84.6% **Violence** i.e. domestic/family, dating violence, bullying, etc.
MOST URGENT NEEDS

In an open-ended question format, all respondents were asked to report, in their own words, the six (6) most urgent needs to address in their community. The following represent the six (6) community needs were identified as the most urgent needs among this sample of south community residents:

1. Youth Service Programs. These programs are defined as structured afterschool activities, life skill training, recreation, counseling services, mentoring, and educational achievement support.

2. Jobs/Employment Training. Survey respondents pointed to the need for jobs as well as job skill development, training, job search and job placement services for adult residents in their community.

3. Drugs. Respondents report that drug use, drug activity and drug education are an urgent need.

4. Healthcare. Respondents report the need for affordable and accessible healthcare as an urgent need in their community for the underinsured and the uninsured.

5. Violence.

The following “needs” were reported equally as often:


Affordable Housing.

Public Safety. Respondents report the need for increased police presence, community policing, gang activity reduction and crime prevention.

Community Infrastructure. Specifically sidewalks, better lighting, sanitation and rebuilding.
CEDA 2011 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
COMMUNITY NEEDS ANALYSIS RESULTS BY SERVICE AREA

GREATEST CHALLENGES THAT EXIST FOR ADULTS WHO WANT TO BECOME MORE “SELF-SUFFICIENT”

Adult Respondents Only

71.0% Unemployment.
63.9% Low paying jobs.
57.5% High rent or mortgage costs.
48.4% Lack of affordable housing.
43.1% Lack of education.
39.9% Don’t know where to go for help to change their circumstances.

THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN MY COMMUNITY (Top 3)

Adult Respondents Only

80.2% Not enough jobs
45.9% Not a livable wage or only part time work available
44.5% Jobseeker skills don’t match job requirements

As a point of interest, the next three most often reported causes are:

41.9% Can’t meet education requirements
39.2% No encouragement to work
32.9% Criminal record
NORTH COMMUNITIES

The North survey sample was derived from the thirteen (13) cities, villages or towns located in north suburban Cook County comprised of approximately three hundred and thirty thousand (330,000) residents.

Evanston  Niles
Glencoe  Northbrook
Glenview  Northfield
Golf  Skokie
Kenilworth  Wilmette
Lincolnwood  Winnetka
Morton Grove

THE SAMPLE

The North sample size is five hundred and forty (540) individuals segmented into five target profile groups. The survey results for the North communities have a confidence level of 95% and a confidence interval of +/-4.2%. For the purpose of survey collection, each profile group was assigned a numeric goal that reflects the current demographic composition in the north communities, i.e. of the 500 collected surveys 60 must be senior adults, 39% male 61% female.

1) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, without minor children currently residing in the home;

2) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, with minor children currently residing in the home;

3) Senior adults, age sixty-five (65) and over;

3) Community business owners; and

5) Youth, ages thirteen (13) to seventeen (17).

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75.1% of respondents living in the North communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

*Adult Respondents Only*

- **47.7%** Job Development/Creation i.e. active recruitment to locate businesses that create jobs
- **47.6%** Affordable Housing i.e. decent, affordable and safe rental units for individuals and families, retirement/assisted living
- **46.9%** Employment Training i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.
- **45.0%** Resident Involvement i.e. Neighborhood Block-watch, community clean-ups, community forums
- **44.8%** Housing Counseling i.e. for homeownership, the homeless, foreclosure prevention, access to affordable rental housing
- **44.1%** Utility Assistance i.e. help paying for gas and electricity bills
- **42.6%** Emergency Assistance i.e. utilities, rent, food, financial assistance, housing
65.2% of youth respondents living in the North communities report that overall they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

Youth Respondents Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Service Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69.6%</td>
<td><strong>Personal Financial Education and Counseling</strong> i.e. credit counseling, budgeting, investing, banking, retirement planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>69.6%</td>
<td><strong>Education Support</strong> i.e. tutoring, college entry ACT/SAT, summer school, math/science/writing support programs</td>
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<td>68.2%</td>
<td><strong>Youth Services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>65.2%</td>
<td><strong>Accessible Health and Wellness Services</strong> i.e. nutrition, fitness, preventive disease education/counseling, parenting classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>65.2%</td>
<td><strong>Employment Training</strong> i.e. job /certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td><strong>Resident Involvement</strong> i.e. Neighborhood Block-watch, community clean-ups, community forums</td>
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<td>60.9%</td>
<td><strong>After School Programs</strong> i.e. supervised activities such as tutoring, performing arts, sports and recreation</td>
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CEDA 2011 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
COMMUNITY NEEDS ANALYSIS RESULTS BY SERVICE AREA

MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Adult Respondents Only

77.1% Summer Job Opportunities i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships etc.
69.3% Drug Use i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.
67.1% Violence i.e. domestic/family, dating violence, bullying, etc.
66.0% Educational i.e. school achievement, maintains or excels at grade level, graduating high school, college preparation
65.8% Medical Health and Wellness i.e. affordable preventative care/screenings/ education for dental, vision, etc.
66.6% Supportive role models and positive adult interaction i.e. mentoring
65.8% Teen Pregnancy

MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Youth Respondents Only

87.0% Drug Use i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.
87.0% Violence i.e. domestic/family, dating violence, bullying, etc.
87.0% Summer Job Opportunities i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships etc.
78.3% Gang Activity
78.3% Affordable recreational activities i.e. community based cultural activities, performing arts, martial arts, travel, camps
77.3% Supportive role models and positive adult interaction i.e. mentoring
73.9% Criminal Activity
MOST URGENT NEEDS

In an open-ended question format, all respondents were asked to report, in their own words, the six (6) most urgent needs to address in their community. The following represent the six (6) community needs were identified as the most urgent needs among this sample of North community residents:

1. **Youth Service Programs.** These programs are defined as affordable structured afterschool activities, life skill training, recreation, teen groups, positive adult role models/mentoring, education support services and access to technology.

2. **Healthcare.** Respondents report the need for affordable and accessible healthcare clinics as an urgent need for seniors and youth.

3. **Affordable Housing.**

4. **Jobs.** Specifically training, placement and summer youth employment.

5. **Economic Development.** Business development, recruitment and job creation.

The following “needs” were reported equally as often:

6. **Drugs.** Respondents report drug use and drug trafficking.
   - **Food.** Defined as assistance for individuals and families with hunger and growing food disparity.
   - **Schools.** Respondent report the need to improve schools, address overcrowding and performance as urgent needs in their community.
   - **Gang Activity.**
GREATEST CHALLENGES THAT EXIST FOR ADULTS WHO WANT TO BECOME MORE “SELF-SUFFICIENT”

Adult Respondents Only

65.7% Unemployment
64.2% High rent or mortgage costs
53.9% Low paying jobs
51.1% Lack of affordable housing
46.9% Too few jobs available for skill level
42.8% Lack of affordable childcare
34.8% Managing personal finances

THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN MY COMMUNITY (Top 3)

Adult Respondents Only

74.8% Not enough jobs
42.8% Jobseeker skills don’t match job requirements
36.2% Not a livable wage or only part time work available

As a point of interest, the next three most often reported causes are:

32.3% No encouragement to work
30.2% Can’t meet education requirements
29.1% Criminal record
WEST COMMUNITIES

The West survey sample was derived from the twenty (20) cities, villages or towns located in west suburban Cook County comprised of approximately two hundred and sixty-four thousand (264,000) residents.

Bellwood  Lyons
Berkeley  Maywood
Broadview  Melrose Park
Brookfield  Norridge
Elmwood Park  Northlake
Forest Park  River Grove
Franklin Park  Rosemont
Harwood Heights  Schiller Park
Hillside  Stone Park
LaGrange Park  Westchester

THE SAMPLE

The West sample size is two hundred fifty-one (251) individuals segmented into five target profile groups. The survey results for the West communities have a confidence level of 95% and a confidence interval of +/-6.2%. For the purpose of survey collection, each profile group was assigned a numeric goal that reflects the current demographic composition in the west communities, i.e. of the 500 collected surveys 60 must be senior adults, 39% male 61% female.

1) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, without minor children currently residing in the home;

2) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, with minor children currently residing in the home;

3) Senior adults, age sixty-five (65) and over;

3) Community business owners; and

5) Youth, ages thirteen (13) to seventeen (17).

In addition, particular effort was made to ensure that 30% of the sample household representation that met the current poverty threshold for eligibility for CEDA programs (below 125% percent of poverty) and thus would reflect the needs of a CEDA client.
THE SURVEY

The community needs assessment survey was designed to collect three specific sets of data or information from respondents, to identify and rank the unique needs of their respective communities, provide insight and perceptions about particular needs and services that exist in their community and to share their individual and family household needs and experiences within the community.

THE RESULTS

Provided in this section are the results of the first section of the community needs assessment survey that allows respondents to identify and rank the unique needs of the community they live in. The questionnaire provided for multiple choice, ranking and open-ended formats to gauge the highest community needs, the most urgent community needs and the most serious issues facing youth ages thirteen to seventeen. For adult respondents there were two additional questions in this section related to their perceptions of the conditions and challenges related to attaining self-sufficiency and unemployment in their communities.
57.8% of respondents living in West communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

Adult Respondents Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Service Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56.8%</td>
<td><strong>Employment Training</strong> i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54.4%</td>
<td><strong>Education Support</strong> i.e. tutoring, college entry ACT/SAT, summer school, math/science/writing support programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.3%</td>
<td><strong>After School Programs</strong> i.e. supervised activities such as tutoring, performing arts, sports and recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.2%</td>
<td><strong>Accessible Health and Wellness Services</strong> i.e. nutrition, fitness, preventive disease education/counseling, parenting classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td><strong>Affordable Housing</strong> i.e. decent, affordable and safe rental units for individuals and families, retirement/assisted living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td><strong>Job Development/Creation</strong> i.e. active recruitment to locate businesses that create jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td><strong>Daycare Services</strong> i.e. licensed care provided for children 6 weeks to 12 years of age in a center or home while parents work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
69.2% of youth respondents living in the West communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

Youth Respondents Only

- **92.3%** Employment Training i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.
- **69.2%** Youth Services
- **69.2%** After School Programs i.e. supervised activities such as tutoring, performing arts, sports and recreation
- **61.5%** Public Safety i.e. police, block-watch programs, fire prevention education, traffic safety, food safety, sanitation, etc.
- **61.5%** Community Amenities i.e. parks, museums, libraries, cultural centers, recreation centers, etc.
- **58.3%** Transportation Services i.e. public transportation, bus, train, subway, bike trails, etc.
- **53.9%** Resident Involvement i.e. Neighborhood Block-watch, community clean-ups, community forums
MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Adult Respondents Only

68.4% Supportive role models and positive adult interaction i.e. mentoring

67.1% Medical Health and Wellness i.e. affordable preventative care/screenings/ education for dental, vision, etc.

65.8% Nutrition & Fitness i.e. healthy eating, getting enough exercise

62.7% Organized after school activities i.e. supervised sports, educational support, social leadership, community service etc.

60.5% Life skill development i.e. career planning, budgeting, banking, personal grooming, traveling and communication

59.2% Teen Pregnancy

56.6% Affordable recreational activities i.e. community based cultural activities, performing arts, martial arts, travel, camps

MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Youth Respondents Only

76.9% Summer Job Opportunities i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships etc.

71.4% Violence i.e. domestic/family, dating violence, bullying, etc.

64.3% Educational i.e. school achievement maintains or excels at grade level, graduating high school, college preparation

64.3% Access to Technology i.e. computers in-home, library, etc.

64.3% Supportive role models and positive adult interaction i.e. mentoring

64.3% Organized after school activities i.e. supervised sports, educational support, social leadership, community service etc.

64.3% Drug Use i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.
MOST URGENT NEEDS IN MY COMMUNITY

In an open-ended question format, all respondents were asked to report, in their own words, the six (6) most urgent needs to address in their community. The following represent the six (6) community needs were identified as the most urgent needs among this sample of West community residents:

1. **Youth Service Programs.** These programs are defined as affordable structured afterschool activities, life skill training, recreation, positive adult role models/mentoring, education support services. Specific emphasis was placed on serving “teen” mothers.

2. **Affordable Housing Solutions.**

3. **Economic Development** – business development and job creation.

4. **Jobs.** Defined also as job development, job search services, relevant training, and summer jobs for youth. Specific emphasis on “teen” mothers and ex-offenders.

5. **Education/Schools.** Respondents identify the need to improve schools with an emphasis on ensuring the recruitment of “better” teachers and ones who “care” about students in the community.

6. **Health and Wellness Services.** Specifically identified for teens.
GREATEST CHALLENGES THAT EXIST FOR ADULTS WHO WANT TO BECOME MORE “SELF-SUFFICIENT”

Adult Respondents Only

- 61.3% Unemployment
- 54.7% High rent or mortgage costs
- 50.7% Low paying jobs
- 49.3% Lack of affordable housing
- 48.0% Too few jobs available for skill level
- 38.7% Lack of affordable childcare
- 36.0% Don’t know where to go for help to change their circumstances

THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN MY COMMUNITY (Top 3)

Adult Respondents Only

- 75.7% Not enough jobs
- 40.5% Jobseeker skills don’t match job requirements
- 29.7% Not a livable wage or only part time work available

As a point of interest, the next three most often reported causes are:

- 27.0% No encouragement to work
- 24.3% Not enough support resources available (job search, resume, etc.)
- 23.0% Can’t meet education requirements
SOUTHEAST COMMUNITIES

The Southeast survey sample was derived from the seven (7) cities, villages or towns located in southeast suburban Cook County comprised of approximately eighty-two thousand (82,000) residents.

Alsip  
Blue Island  
Calumet Park  
Crestwood  
Midlothian  
Posen  
Robbins

THE SAMPLE

The Southeast sample size is two hundred thirty-one (231) individuals segmented into five target profile groups. The survey results for the Far South communities have a confidence level of 95% and a confidence interval of +/-6.4%. For the purpose of survey collection, each profile group was assigned a numeric goal that reflects the current demographic composition in the southeast communities, i.e. of the 500 collected surveys 60 must be senior adults, 39% male 61% female.

1) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, without minor children currently residing in the home;

2) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, with minor children currently residing in the home;

3) Senior adults, age sixty-five (65) and over;

3) Community business owners; and

5) Youth, ages thirteen (13) to seventeen (17).

In addition, particular effort was made to ensure that 30% of the sample household representation that met the current poverty threshold for eligibility for CEDA programs (below 125% percent of poverty) and thus would reflect the needs of a CEDA client.
THE SURVEY

The community needs assessment survey was designed to collect three specific sets of data or information from respondents, to identify and rank the unique needs of their respective communities, provide insight and perceptions about particular needs and services that exist in their community and to share their individual and family household needs and experiences within the community.

THE RESULTS

Provided in this section are the results of the first section of the community needs assessment survey that allows respondents to identify and rank the unique needs of the community they live in. The questionnaire provided for multiple choice, ranking and open-ended formats to gauge the highest community needs, the most urgent community needs and the most serious issues facing youth ages thirteen to seventeen. For adult respondents there were two additional questions in this section related to their perceptions of the conditions and challenges related to attaining self-sufficiency and unemployment in their communities.
58.9% of respondents living in the Southeast communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS

Adult Respondents Only

58.0% Utility Assistance i.e. help paying for gas and electricity bills

57.0% Emergency Assistance i.e. utilities, rent, food, financial assistance, housing

54.5% Public Safety i.e. police, block-watch programs, fire prevention education, traffic safety, food safety, sanitation, etc.

51.8% Employment Training i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.

51.6% Youth Services

51.6% Affordable Housing i.e. decent, affordable and safe rental units for individuals and families, retirement/assisted living

51.0% After School Programs i.e. supervised activities such as tutoring, performing arts, sports and recreation
57.1% of youth respondents living in the Southeast communities report that overall they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

*Youth Respondents Only*

60.0% **Substance Abuse Services** i.e. prevention and treatment for alcohol and drug addiction for individuals and their families

50.0% **Personal Financial Education and Counseling** i.e. credit counseling, budgeting, investing, banking, retirement planning

50.0% **Early Childhood Education** i.e. formal pre-school learning/development for children 3 years and older such as Head Start

50.0% **Public Safety** i.e. police, block-watch programs, fire prevention education, traffic safety, food safety, sanitation, etc.

50.0% **Transportation Services** i.e. public transportation, bus, train, subway, bike trails, etc.

50.0% **Education Support** i.e. tutoring, college entry ACT/SAT, summer school, math/science/writing support programs

50.0% **Retail/ Commercial Business** i.e. full service grocery stores, hardware stores, clothing stores, gas stations, restaurants
Adult Respondents Only

78.0% **Summer Job Opportunities** i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships etc.

74.4% **Drug Use** i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.

74.0% **Medical Health** i.e. affordable preventative care/screenings/education for dental, vision, etc.

73.4% **Educational** i.e. school achievement maintains or excels at grade level, graduating high school, college preparation

71.7% **Organized after school activities** i.e. supervised sports, educational support, social leadership, community service etc.

71.4% **Supportive role models and positive adult interaction** i.e. mentoring

71.0% **Accessible mental health services** counseling for grief, conflict resolution, child abuse, self-esteem, substance abuse, etc.

Youth Respondents Only

83.3% **Educational** i.e. school achievement maintains or excels at grade level, graduating high school, college preparation

83.3% **Gang Activity**

83.3% **Summer Job Opportunities** i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships etc.

66.7% **Teen Pregnancy**

66.7% **Medical Health** i.e. affordable preventative care/screenings/education for dental, vision, etc.

66.7% **Drug Use** i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.

50.0% **Criminal Activity**
In an open-ended question format, all respondents were asked to report, in their own words, the six (6) most urgent needs to address in their community. The following represent the six (6) community needs were identified as the most urgent needs among this sample of Southeast community residents:

1. **Police.** Respondents report the needs for an increase in police presence, protection, an emphasis on crime prevention and control.

2. **Jobs.** Defined also as job skill development and summer jobs for youth.

3. **Youth Service Programs.** These programs are defined as free afterschool activities, career exploration and mentoring, supervised recreation, educational support services. Specific emphasis was placed on serving “teen” mothers.

4. **Drug Use/Activity.**

5. **Resident Involvement.** Defined as block-watch, clean-ups, advocacy for increased streetlights and sidewalks.

6. **Healthcare.** Affordable access to medical care.
   
   **Business Development.**
   
   **Emergency Assistance.** Defined as housing, food and utility assistance.
   
   **Affordable Childcare.**
   
   **Teen Pregnancy.**
GREATEST CHALLENGES THAT EXIST FOR ADULTS WHO WANT TO BECOME MORE “SELF-SUFFICIENT”

Adult Respondents Only

65.3%  Unemployment
56.8%  High rent or mortgage costs
54.2%  Low paying jobs
49.0%  Too few jobs available for skill level
46.3%  Lack of affordable housing
38.4%  Lack of education
36.8%  Alcohol/ Drug Abuse

THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN MY COMMUNITY (Top 3)

Adult Respondents Only

76.3%  Not enough jobs
44.2%  Not a livable wage or only part time work available
43.7%  Jobseeker skills don’t match job requirements

As a point of interest, the next three most often reported causes are:

38.4%  Can’t meet education requirements
36.3%  Lack of reliable transportation
34.7%  No encouragement to work
CEDA 2011 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
COMMUNITY NEEDS ANALYSIS RESULTS BY SERVICE AREA

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITIES

The Southwest survey sample was derived from the thirty (30) cities, villages or towns located in southwest suburban Cook County comprised of approximately four hundred thirty-nine thousand (439,000) residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bedford Park</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Palos Hills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeview</td>
<td>Indian Head Park</td>
<td>Palos Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burbank</td>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>Stickney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burr Ridge</td>
<td>LaGrange</td>
<td>Summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Ridge</td>
<td>Lemont</td>
<td>Tinley Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countryside</td>
<td>McCook</td>
<td>Western Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen Park</td>
<td>Merrionette Park</td>
<td>Willow Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest View</td>
<td>Oak Lawn</td>
<td>Worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickory Hills</td>
<td>Orland Hills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinsdale</td>
<td>Orland Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodgkins</td>
<td>Palos Heights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE SAMPLE

The Southwest sample size is five hundred and one (511) individuals segmented into five target profile groups. The survey results for the Far South communities have a confidence level of 95% and a confidence interval of +/-4.3%. For the purpose of survey collection, each profile group was assigned a numeric goal that reflects the current demographic composition in the Southwest communities, i.e. of the 500 collected surveys 60 must be senior adults, 39% male 61% female.

1) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, without minor children currently residing in the home;

2) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, with minor children currently residing in the home;

3) Senior adults, age sixty-five (65) and over;

3) Community business owners; and

5) Youth, ages thirteen (13) to seventeen (17).

In addition, particular effort was made to ensure that 30% of the sample household representation that met the current poverty threshold for eligibility for CEDA programs (below 125% percent of poverty) and thus would reflect the needs of a CEDA client.
THE SURVEY

The community needs assessment survey was designed to collect three specific sets of data or information from respondents, to identify and rank the unique needs of their respective communities, provide insight and perceptions about particular needs and services that exist in their community and to share their individual and family household needs and experiences within the community.

THE RESULTS

Provided in this section are the results of the first section of the community needs assessment survey that allows respondents to identify and rank the unique needs of the community they live in. The questionnaire provided for multiple choice, ranking and open-ended formats to gauge the highest community needs, the most urgent community needs and the most serious issues facing youth ages thirteen to seventeen. For adult respondents there were two additional questions in this section related to their perceptions of the conditions and challenges related to attaining self-sufficiency and unemployment in their communities.
73.6% of respondents living in the Southwest communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS

Adult Respondents Only

59.7% Employment Training i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.

59.1% Utility Assistance i.e. help paying for gas and electricity bills

59.0% Job Development/Creation i.e. active recruitment to locate businesses that create jobs

58.8% After School Programs i.e. supervised activities such as tutoring, performing arts, sports and recreation

56.1% Childhood Education i.e. formal pre-school learning/development for children 3 years and older such as Head Start

55.5% Emergency Assistance i.e. utilities, rent, food, financial assistance, housing

55.2% Affordable Housing i.e. decent, affordable and safe rental units for individuals and families, retirement/assisted living
41.0% of youth respondents living in the Southwest communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

Youth Respondents Only

86.4% **Daycare Services** i.e. licensed care provided for children 6 weeks to 12 years of age in a center or home while parents work

81.8% **Education Support** i.e. tutoring, college entry ACT/SAT preparation, summer school, math/science/writing support programs

81.8% **Community Amenities** i.e. parks, museums, libraries, cultural centers, recreation centers, etc.

77.3% **Employment Training** i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.

72.7% **Substance Abuse Services** i.e. prevention and treatment for alcohol and drug addiction for individuals and their families

72.7% **Personal Financial Education and Counseling** i.e. credit counseling, budgeting, investing, banking, retirement planning

72.7% **Emergency Assistance** i.e. utilities, rent, food, financial assistance, housing
MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Adult Respondents Only

70.7%  **Summer Job Opportunities** i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships etc.

70.2%  **Drug Use** i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.

63.9%  **Violence** i.e. domestic/family, dating violence, bullying, etc.

59.9%  **Supportive role models and positive adult interaction** i.e. mentoring

59.0%  **Teen Pregnancy**

58.8%  **Affordable recreational activities** i.e. community based cultural activities, performing arts, martial arts, travel, camps

57.7%  **Gang Activity**

MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Youth Respondents Only

72.7%  **Medical Health** i.e. affordable preventative care/screenings/ education for dental, vision, etc.

72.7%  **Violence** i.e. domestic/family, dating violence, bullying, etc.

72.7%  **Summer Job Opportunities** i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships etc.

63.6%  **Educational** i.e. school achievement, maintains or excels at grade level, graduating high school, college preparation

63.6%  **Gang Activity**

63.6%  **Life skill development** i.e. career planning, budgeting, banking, personal grooming, traveling and communication

59.1%  **Supportive role models and positive adult interaction** i.e. mentoring
In an open-ended question format, all respondents were asked to report, in their own words, the six (6) most urgent needs to address in their community. The following represent the six (6) community needs were identified as the most urgent needs among this sample of Southwest community residents:

1. **Youth Service Programs.** These programs are defined as free afterschool activities, community service, volunteer opportunities, clubs, and life skills and mentoring.

2. **Jobs.** Defined also as job skill training, job search and placement with an emphasis on summer jobs for youth and access to technology.

3. **Affordable Housing.** Specific reference to rental housing, foreclosure and homelessness.  
   **Senior Services.** Emphasis on nutrition, fitness, activities and volunteer/job opportunities.


5. **Emergency Assistance.** Described as the emergency services related to rental payments/housing assistance, food, utility assistance and medical costs for those in need.

6. **Public Safety.** Specific to addressing gang activity, domestic violence, crime prevention working with the community such as block-watch, clean-ups and awareness.
GREATEST CHALLENGES THAT EXIST FOR ADULTS WHO WANT TO BECOME MORE “SELF-SUFFICIENT”

Adult Respondents Only

- 67.9% Unemployment
- 63.5% High rent or mortgage costs
- 55.3% Low paying jobs
- 46.2% Lack of affordable childcare
- 43.4% Lack of affordable housing
- 41.5% Too few jobs available for skill level
- 34.3% Lack of education

THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN MY COMMUNITY (Top 3)

Adult Respondents Only

- 74.1% Not enough jobs
- 36.7% Jobseeker skills don’t match job requirements
- 35.4% Not a livable wage or only part time work available

As a point of interest, the next three most often reported causes are:

- 33.5% Lack of Child Care
- 30.4% No encouragement to work
- 26.3% No transportation (public or private) to get to jobs or appointments
NEAR WEST COMMUNITIES

The Near West survey sample is comprised of the five (5) cities, villages or towns located in Near West suburban Cook County.

- Berwyn
- Cicero
- Oak Park
- Riverside
- River Forest

THE SAMPLE

The Near West sample size is one hundred ninety-five (195) individuals segmented into five target profile groups. The survey results for the Far South communities have a confidence level of 95% and a confidence interval of +/-7.0%. For the purpose of survey collection, each profile group was assigned a numeric goal that reflects the current demographic composition in the Near West communities, i.e. of the 500 collected surveys 60 must be senior adults, 39% male 61% female.

1) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, without minor children currently residing in the home;
2) Adult heads of household, age eighteen (18) and over, with minor children currently residing in the home;
3) Senior adults, age sixty-five (65) and over;
4) Community business owners; and
5) Youth, ages thirteen (13) to seventeen (17).

In addition, particular effort was made to ensure that 30% of the sample household representation that met the current poverty threshold for eligibility for CEDA programs (below 125% percent of poverty) and thus would reflect the needs of a CEDA client.
THE SURVEY

The community needs assessment survey was designed to collect three specific sets of data or information from respondents, to identify and rank the unique needs of their respective communities, provide insight and perceptions about particular needs and services that exist in their community and to share their individual and family household needs and experiences within the community.

THE RESULTS

Provided in this section are the results of the first section of the community needs assessment survey that allows respondents to identify and rank the unique needs of the community they live in. The questionnaire provided for multiple choice, ranking and open-ended formats to gauge the highest community needs, the most urgent community needs and the most serious issues facing youth ages thirteen to seventeen. For adult respondents there were two additional questions in this section related to their perceptions of the conditions and challenges related to attaining self-sufficiency and unemployment in their communities.
57.5% of respondents living in the Near West communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS

Adult Respondents Only

65.2% Utility Assistance i.e. help paying for gas and electricity bills

65.1% Employment Training i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.

64.8% Education Support i.e. tutoring, college entry ACT/SAT, summer school, math/science/writing support programs

64.2% Job Development/Creation i.e. active recruitment to locate businesses that create jobs

62.6% Affordable Housing i.e. decent, affordable and safe rental units for individuals and families, retirement/assisted living

62.6% Housing Counseling i.e. for homeownership, the homeless, foreclosure prevention, access to affordable rental housing

62.2% Adult Continuing Education i.e. upgrading technology skills, auto repair, nutrition, cooking, making a home “green”, languages
53.3% of youth respondents living in the Near West communities report that overall, they are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

**HIGHEST COMMUNITY NEEDS**

Youth Respondents Only

66.7% **Employment Training** i.e. job/certification skills training for technology, culinary, automotive, medical transcription, etc.

66.7% **Public Safety** i.e. police, block-watch programs, fire prevention education, traffic safety, food safety, sanitation, etc.

64.3% **Substance Abuse Services** i.e. prevention and treatment for alcohol and drug addiction for individuals and their families

60.0% **After School Programs** i.e. supervised activities such as tutoring, performing arts, sports and recreation

60.0% **Education Support** i.e. tutoring, college entry ACT/SAT, summer school, math/science/writing support programs

57.1% **Personal Financial Education and Counseling** i.e. credit counseling, budgeting, investing, banking, retirement planning

53.3% **Early Childhood Education** i.e. formal pre-school learning/development for children 3 years and older such as Head Start
CEDA 2011 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
COMMUNITY NEEDS ANALYSIS RESULTS BY SERVICE AREA

MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Adult Respondents Only

72.3% Educational i.e. school achievement, maintains or excels at grade level, graduating high school, college preparation

71.6% Drug Use i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.

70.9% Gang Activity

67.0% Summer Job Opportunities i.e. part-time jobs, community service, volunteer work, internships etc.

64.8% Criminal Activity

64.4% Violence i.e. domestic/family, dating violence, bullying, etc.

61.5% Supportive role models and positive adult interaction i.e. mentoring

MOST SERIOUS ISSUES FACING YOUTH 13-17 YEARS OF AGE

Youth Respondents Only

73.3% Gang Activity

73.3% Drug Use i.e. alcohol, marijuana, “crack”, “meth”, etc.

66.7% Violence i.e. domestic/family, dating violence, bullying, etc.

60.0% Educational i.e. school achievement, maintains or excels at grade level, graduating high school, college preparation

60.0% Teen Pregnancy

60.0% Nutrition & Fitness i.e. healthy eating, getting enough exercise

60.0% Organized after school activities i.e. supervised sports, educational support, social leadership, community service etc.
MOST URGENT NEEDS

In an open-ended question format, all respondents were asked to report, in their own words, the six (6) most urgent needs to address in their community. The following represent the six (6) community needs were identified as the **most urgent** needs among this sample of Near West community residents:

1. **Youth Service Programs.** These programs are defined as afterschool activities, academic support, summer job opportunities, life skills, access to technology and mentoring.

2. **Healthcare.** Respondents report affordable and accessible healthcare as an urgent need in their community. Healthcare includes preventative health and wellness, nutrition, fitness, medical care, mental health and substance abuse treatment.

3. **Jobs.** In addition, job assistance services such as search, training, summer job development for youth.

4. **Housing.** Affordable housing and addressing homelessness.

5. **Senior Services.** Nutrition, fitness and volunteer/job opportunities.

6. **Gang Activity.** Respondents report a need for ways to reduce gang activity, education and awareness.
GREATEST CHALLENGES THAT EXIST FOR ADULTS WHO WANT TO BECOME MORE “SELF-SUFFICIENT”

Adult Respondents Only

69.8% Unemployment
55.2% Low paying jobs
51.0% Lack of education
50.0% High rent or mortgage costs
49.0% Too few jobs available for skill level
42.7% Lack of affordable housing
34.38% Lack of affordable childcare

THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN MY COMMUNITY (Top 3)

Adult Respondents Only

85.3% Not enough jobs
41.0% Not a livable wage or only part time work available
40.0% No encouragement to work

As a point of interest, the next three most often reported causes are:

35.8% Can’t meet education requirements
34.7% Jobseeker skills don’t match job requirements
27.4% Lack of reliable transportation