Somerset Community Action Program

When the numbers aren’t enough - Assessing the Needs of Somerset County

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AFE Presentation
Fall 2013
Overview

Somerset Community Action Program
Somerset County
Community Needs Assessment
Methodology
Findings
Personal Reflections
Somerset Community Action Program

Established in 1965
Economic Opportunity Act
Seeks to increase the self-sufficiency of low to moderate income individuals and families

- (1) specializing in providing direct services
- (2) working in collaboration with a network of community partners

http://www.somersetcap.org/
Services

- Employment support
  - Early Childhood Training, Driver’s License Restoration, English as a Second Language, Child Development, Head Start

- Weatherization

- Emergency Services

- Asset Development

- Educational programs for parents
Welcome to Somerset County

April 25th, 2013 Forbes magazine article, “America’s Richest Counties”

- 9th richest county in the nation
- the 2nd richest county in New Jersey
West- Hunterdon County (5th & 1st)
Southeast- Middlesex County

21 municipalities

Somerset County

Per capita income $48,090
Median household income is $98,842
Median value of a home is $420,500
Home ownership rate of 79.3%
25 years or older, 50.2% have a bachelor’s degree or higher and 93% are a high school graduate or higher

http://www.census.gov/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Per Capita Income</th>
<th>Families Living Below Poverty Line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S. Bound Brook</td>
<td>$33,573</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bound Brook</td>
<td>$27,075</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Township</td>
<td>$38,123</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manville Borough</td>
<td>$27,773</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raritan</td>
<td>$35,883</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Plainfield</td>
<td>$25,133</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerville</td>
<td>$31,374</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
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Community Needs Assessment

Yearly assessment the needs of the low income communities
In-depth community needs assessment every third year

- Gaps in Services
- Priority
- Service Recommendations
Methodology

Comprehensive approach

- Secondary Data sources as Boards of Education, NJ Kids Count, Somerset County Clerk’s Office, Census 2010 and 2011-2012 updates, community-focused reports
- Client focus groups
- Client and Community Partner Surveys
- Interviews with SCAP staff, clients, community partners, and community residents
- SCAP archives
17 Key Findings

12 Recommendations

- Housing, Transportation, Food Insecurity & Youth Programs
First Year Courses
- Non-Profit Management, Economics of Poverty, CED, Methods I and II

Concentration
- Community Development & Methods

Second Year Courses

Soft Skills
acknowledgments

Mrs. Freda Ofori and the SCAP family

Dave Snyder

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Thank You