

Executive Summary

EI Dorado County Community Services Block Grant 2014/2015 Community Action Plan

VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of the EI Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency is:

- The Agency encourages families to develop supportive relationships within their family unit, contribute positive participation in their community and to strive for economic self-sufficiency.
- The Agency recognizes and facilitates services that support individuals and families to become self-sufficient members of the community.
- The Agency encourages and supports community participation that ensures social, governmental, and economic systems are effective in achieving a healthy community. One that supports individuals and families, with a focus on collaboration that acts as a ladder for client self-sufficiency.
- The Agency commits to maintaining core support services that enhance complementing services within the community to provide an environment of health and security.

MISSION STATEMENT

The EI Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency supports its vision by:

Strengthening, Empowering and Protecting the Residents in EI Dorado County

- Ensure that the needs of the clients and community are identified and services are coordinated in collaboration and non-duplicative.
- Facilitate comprehensive, well-planned community action activities and services.
- Encourage the coordination of available local, state, federal and private resources to measurably address the causes of poverty.
- Utilize CSBG funding to facilitate and support the provision of vital services to the community, including the leveraging of additional service dollars.
- Locate programs and services in multiservice central locations that are essential in a rural area with limited access to public transportation.
- Work towards identifying and reducing potential gaps in services to the segments of our population in need of support to assist them in living independently.
- Provide a variety of direct human and social services that meet individual and community needs for the alleviation of poverty.
- Establish partnerships and collaborations that support clients who seek self-sufficiency.

PROBLEM STATEMENTS

- A need exists to assist families who may not have had to seek employment in the past, to now seek employment opportunities.
- A need exists to assist individuals that may need training in new fields or to upgrade their skills to compete in the workforce.
- A need exists to ensure low-income households are able to access affordable housing for rent or purchase in locations convenient for employment within the community.
- A need exists to assist households in building savings to progress towards home ownership via conventional home loans.
- A need exists to provide core services and meet increased demand by utilizing volunteers within the community.
- A need exists to ensure the needs are met of low-income individuals, young families and seniors who may be unaware of services and programs in the community
- A need exists to ensure participation of low-income individuals on advisory councils that enable them to provide input to decision making and policy setting boards relative to community action issues.
- A need exists to provide assistance to low-income individuals who have an idea and ability to initiate a small business but lack capital and knowledge to implement the idea.
- A need exists to maintain strong relationships and partnerships with community based organizations to identify and evaluate existing programs and prevent duplication of services.
- A need exists to encourage participation by the community in available services to achieve positive results and close gaps in services.
- A need exists to provide Agency staff new and innovative methods of addressing challenges and meeting the needs of a changing society.
- A need exists to provide a comprehensive service delivery system of well-planned, unduplicated support programs to meet the needs of vulnerable senior and disabled adults, incorporating outreach efforts to connect with those who may be unaware of services and programs that are in place in the community, which would stabilize their situation and make it possible for these individuals to remain safe and comfortable and independent to the extent possible in their own homes.
- A need exists to mitigate hunger in El Dorado County by providing nutrition services and food resources to the low income population of all ages.
- A need exists to alleviate energy crisis situations in the cold winter months to residents with wood, propane or electricity to heat their home.
- A need exists to alleviate hunger for families that are unemployed and under employed within the county, especially for blue collar workers.
- A need exists to ensure low-income and disabled households maintain a stable and supportive environment.
- A need exists to increase energy assistance to households who are least able to financially stretch their resources to cover the high energy costs.
- A need exists to increase knowledge and access to available services to individuals and families who may be unaware of services and programs in the community and how to access them.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERY STRATEGIES

Assist low-income people in becoming more self sufficient

- Administer the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program and assist clients who are unemployed, secure positions within the community.
- Work with employers in the community who have existing and/or upcoming vacancies to place clients needing employment.
- Assist clients to enroll in job training classes in new fields and/or refresher courses to upgrade existing skills.

Improve conditions in which low-income residents reside

- Facilitate implementation for the El Dorado County General Plan's Housing Element to be in compliance with current State laws.*
- Assist eligible low-income households in obtaining affordable housing for rent or purchase, improving their financial and housing situations.*
- Obtain grant funding and administer the Housing Rehabilitation Program to benefit low-income homeowners by providing them with low interest loans resulting in improved housing conditions in unincorporated areas of the County.*

Enhance Community Engagement to promote community involvement

- Seek participation through the Community Action Council and meet community and agency goals that are responsive to the vulnerable and low-income populations.
- Enhance opportunities of civic engagement possibilities and volunteer opportunities.

Ensure community empowerment through maximum feasible participation

- Ensure the needs of the low-income segment are addressed at the monthly Community Action Council meetings.
- Administer the Micro-Enterprise Grant to encourage the development of small entrepreneurial businesses.*
- Administer the Home Investment Partnership Grant (HOME) to assist first-time homebuyers who are low-income.*

Expand resources opportunities through community wide partnership

- Maintain a strong administrative unit and partner, network and support collaborations with a wide array of public and private entities.
- Work with community agencies to expand resources and services, leveraging resources and to work towards a full continuum of care for low income and vulnerable individuals.

Enhance staff awareness increasing their capacity to achieve optimal results

- Provide ongoing training to staff on a wide variety of topics to increase efficiencies and to ensure compliance with programs and regulations.

* On May 21, 2013 the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors conceptually approved the transfer of the Housing, Community and Economic Development programs to the Office of Economic Development within the Chief Administrative Office. While the Health and Human Services Agency will no longer be responsible for administration of these programs, services will still be provided by a County government office and available to County residents.

Support low-income and vulnerable individuals to achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments.

- Administer support services such as, Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program, Senior Nutrition (congregate and home-delivered meals), In-Home Supportive Services, Family Caregiver Support Services and Adult Protective Services to promote socialization and prevent premature institutionalization and abuse.
- Provide appropriate referrals to community agencies to promote independence among the vulnerable and at-risk populations.
- Assist at-risk populations in helping them retain and/or achieve their independence.

Increase access to food resources for low-income population

- Provide low-income and vulnerable individuals seeking food resources with appropriate referrals to churches, food closets, local food banks, and the Upper Room Dining Hall.

Assist low-income households that are experiencing emergency situations

- Administer the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
- Assist vulnerable and low-income households to receive wood, propane, electricity, or heating oil assistance.
- Coordinate with Salvation Army to enable low-income households at risk of imminent shut-off of their utilities to access REACH resources to retain utility service.
- Administer legal assistance to seniors who are suspected victims of elder abuse and/or exploitation.

Ensure that low-income families with young children obtain proper nutrition and alleviate hunger

- Administer the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), providing services to a revolving caseload of over 3,200 eligible clients with nutrition assessments and education, promoting safe, economic and healthy use of available foods along with food-specific WIC vouchers to promote good nutrition and reduce the incidence of nutritionally at-risk infants, children and pregnant and lactating women.
- Enhance client access by maintaining bi-lingual staff and scheduling evening and weekend client appointments that allow working clients to access services.
- Provide information, outreach and referral on available food resources throughout the County.

Ensure that low-income and vulnerable families achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments

- Administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program, enabling eligible households to receive rental assistance.
- Administer the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and Weatherization Program, which allows households to receive assistance in reducing their home energy costs.
- Network with providers of the community and assist them in making appropriate referrals to support and improve individuals situations while helping them achieve or retain their independence.

Ensure low-income and vulnerable populations access beneficial services and programs

- Administer the Information and Assistance Program, which provides caregivers, low-income and vulnerable populations with information, referrals and follow up to ensure that available services are being accessed.