

Executive Summary

EI Dorado County Community Services Block Grant 2012/2013 Community Action Plan

VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of the EI Dorado County Department of Human Services is:

- The Agency encourages families to develop supportive relationships within their family unit, 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 effective economic systems are effective in achieving a healthy community 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 that provide an environment of health and security.

MISSION STATEMENT

The EI Dorado County Department of Human Services supports its vision by:

- Ensure that the needs of the clients and the 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 multi-service central locations, that is 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 mitigate the high cost of housing for low-income households paying more than 30% of their income for shelter, and to make available low interest housing loans for health and safety repairs or handicapped modifications.
- A need exists to promote availability of basic health services for low-income and vulnerable households in outlying areas of the County.
- A need exists to ensure that the low-income and vulnerable populations will be able to access safe and affordable housing opportunities and will have their financial and housing situations improved.
- A need exists to build and enhance opportunities to promote civic engagement and community involvement to ensure program delivery.
- A need exists to maintain a strong, viable administrative unit in order to support and collaborate with community entities to promote goals and planning for impacts related to self-sufficiency, to identify and evaluate existing services and/or gaps in services, thereby strengthening the planning and evaluation process, to promote fiscal responsibility and to provide accurate, responsive service information to clients seeking assistance.
- A need exists to provide accurate, responsive reporting to ensure grant funding for provision of services and to seek additional grant dollars through the application process whenever possible.
- 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 resource access to the low-income population, from infants to senior citizens; to mitigate the high cost of energy consumption for low-income, senior and disabled households throughout El Dorado County and to provide legal assistance to senior households seeking support with emergency situations relating to health, exploitation and property concerns.
- A need exists to alleviate hunger and provide proper nutrition education and assistance to families with young children and single parents living on fixed incomes.
- A need exists to ensure low-income, senior and disabled households maintain a stable and supportive environment.
- A need exists to provide an effective way to deliver available information on beneficial services and programs and to ensure that low-income and vulnerable populations are not placed in jeopardy due to lack of knowledge about or limited access to a range of unduplicated support programs.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERY STRATEGIES

Improve housing opportunities for low-income residents

- Work with developers to ensure completion of the Habitat for Humanity Project, which will create 25 affordable housing units.
- Administer a Housing Rehabilitation Program to address health and safety needs and provide handicapped modifications for eligible low-income residents.
- Assist households in reducing long-term energy costs through home weatherization and repair services.

Improve conditions in which low-income residents reside

- Assist eligible low-income residents in obtaining affordable and safe rental housing.
- Facilitate implementation of the Housing Element of the recently adopted El Dorado County General Plan.

Enhance opportunities to promote civic engagement and community involvement

- Seek participation through the Community Action Council and meet community and agency goals that are responsive to the needs of the vulnerable and low-income populations.
- Provide a broader array of civic engagement options and volunteer opportunities.

Expand resources and services in order to achieve positive family and community outcomes

- Support and advocate for expansion of resources and services to promote a full continuum of care for low-income and vulnerable individuals.
- Promote community awareness and participation in program planning.
- Work with community agencies to promote provision of necessary services, independent living and self-sufficiency.

Ensure grant funding for provision of services

- Continue to seek and identify additional grant dollars through the application process whenever possible.

Link vulnerable, at-risk populations to services that promote independence and prevent isolation or abuse

- 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

- Assist vulnerable and low-income households to apply for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program services.
- Assist vulnerable and low-income households to receive wood, propane 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.

Provide legal assistance to low-income disabled and senior households seeking support with emergency situations

- Administer the Senior Legal Assistance Program for seniors, offering no-cost legal advice and services on issues such as health care, exploitation and property disputes.
- Encourage and support low-income non-seniors to access free legal assistance through programs such as Legal Services of Northern California or a free legal service clinic at the local courthouse.

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 3,250 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 low-income, senior and disabled households maintain a stable and supportive environment

- Administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program, which provides eligible households with rental assistance.
- Provide appropriate referrals to community agencies to promote independence among the vulnerable and at-risk populations.

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.