WASHINGTON GORGE ACTION PROGRAMS

Community Needs Assessment

Skamania and Klickitat Counties 2020

Colibri Consulting
submitted March 2021

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Executive Summary

Problems of the present echo the problems of the past.

WAGAP has been doing Community Needs Assessments in our area for many years and we've seen a pattern in the conditions of poverty, as the problems that cause people to struggle are repeated across the decades. The underlying causes of poverty in our region are multi pronged, but they are much the same as they were in 1964 at the beginning of our Community Action story.

Affordability in our region has long been an issue. In the '80s we saw our real estate market take off as our area became known for outdoor recreation. Some towns became tourist destinations or bedroom communities for the Portland metro area, while at the same time experiencing job losses from a declining timber industry and the closure of Goldendale's aluminum plant. Housing prices have continued to soar throughout the 2020 pandemic, while unemployment has surged yet again. Poverty rates are higher than they are in the nation or the state and income inequality continues to be a problem. Minorities are suffering the highest poverty rates, while women - especially single mothers - have the lowest incomes and the greatest share of poverty in general.

More high paying jobs have come into the area through the tech sector, but many locals are not eligible for these jobs because of required training and education. Lack of access to jobs with good wages, affordable housing and transportation are the problems most concerning to people here, and these needs are tied to other problems like limited childcare options and access to higher education. Lack of access to healthcare and healthy food are also contributing to local poverty. These are huge issues that will take community involvement and investment, legislation, cultural shifts, and funding to address.

WAGAP has worked to reduce poverty since the 1960s, yet the dynamics of a changing rural area have created circumstances that continue to be challenging. Intergenerational poverty, trauma, discrimination, and a lack of resources in a rural area are part of the picture for many of our most vulnerable residents. Poverty has been a revolving door here. For each family that we help get back on their feet there are other families who come in seeking services. Our services cover a large region and a variety of locally relevant solutions are needed to reduce poverty. Fortunately many programs and agencies are already at work in our communities. By strengthening our collaborations we can make existing programs more effective and identify new, creative solutions to move the poverty needle as we move forward.

This assessment was conducted during the 2020 pandemic, amidst unusual hardship and increased unemployment. We expect our economy will recover to pre-pandemic levels over time, but as long as pre-pandemic poverty conditions call for Community Action, WAGAP will continue to answer that call.

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We hope this assessment will help you understand the dynamics of our two county service area and we hope it will inspire you to become involved. WAGAP would not exist without the partnerships we have forged, the community who supports us, and the countless people who volunteer their time, money, and resources. Together we strengthen our community, and **together** the work continues…

Leslie Naramore
WAGAP Executive Director

Photo by Jacob Lund from Noun Project

Introduction and Agency Overview

Nationwide, Community Action Agencies (CCAs), like WAGAP, are expected to base their strategies and service priorities on the needs and strengths in their communities. The Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) framework is a continuous cycle used by CCAs to best meet local needs. Assessing assets and needs in a community is the first phase of the cycle and sets the stage for agency planning and improvement.

Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) cycle steps:
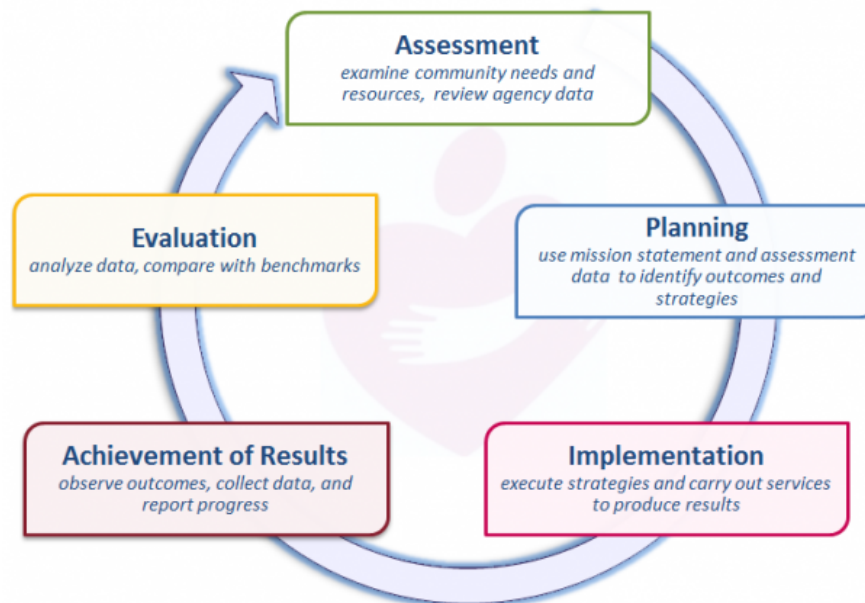
ROMA cycle illustration and assessment goals from ROMA Next Gen Needs Assessment guidelines[1]

As we embark on our next 3-year cycle, WAGAP partnered with Colibri Consulting to conduct a 2020 Community Needs Assessment for our service area. Input from diverse community members, staff and agency partners regarding community assets and needs was collected and analyzed, as outlined in Appendix A. Methodology.

This assessment targets the following ROMA Next Gen Needs Assessment goals:

- Assess level of poverty within the whole community
- Assess how well the needs of low income individuals and families are currently being met – including what assets and resources the community has
- Identify service barriers that limit the effectiveness of the current service network
- Assess relationships with key partners and stakeholders and identify how to strengthen them
- Build awareness of Community Action and our community agenda
- Develop recommendations that will enhance the community's ability to address the concerns of low income individuals and families

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[1] https://communityactionpartnership.com/publication_toolkit/roma-next-gen-beyond-the-basics/

WAGAP is the Community Action Agency for Skamania and Klickitat Counties. Our mission is to:

> ***Strengthen community by inspiring hope***
> ***and helping people help themselves***.

We reduce poverty by helping people meet basic human needs and increase their self-sufficiency. With 8 locations across two counties, we generate economic impact by bringing hundreds of thousands of grant dollars into the community annually and providing 35 permanent jobs (plus 10 new temp jobs created in response to COVID-19 related needs). Each year, thousands of people turn to WAGAP for short-term assistance and long-term solutions to help them take control of their lives and their futures. Programs offering nutrition assistance and food banks, emergency housing and homeless shelter, domestic violence prevention and crime victim services, youth substance abuse prevention, care coordination, home energy and weatherization assistance, on the job training, COVID-19 relief funds, and after school youth programs are some of the ways WAGAP is meeting the promise of Community Action.

Who we serve: Our clients reflect local demographics, though we primarily serve those living in poverty - many of whom are unemployed. Our clients have lower rates of health insurance and college degrees than the rest of the local population, though they have a similar rate of high school graduation. In most cases our demographic did not change with the onset of COVID-19, but we did see an influx of clients: **4006 households served in 2020** vs. 3216 households in 2019. And we assisted more homeless people this year (402 people vs. 338 in 2019).

8572 WAGAP clients served in 2020 - about 1/4 of the population	
Race/ethnicity	6% Native American, 12% Latino, 69% White (non Latino)
Gender	½ male - ½ female
Largest age group served	25-44 year olds (27%)
Children served (<18 years)	25% of all clients
Poverty	55% below Federal Poverty Level, 71% below 200% FPL
Employment	45% unemployed (<6 months), 29% unemployed (>6 months) or not in the labor force
Housing	15% own their home
Homeless	10% (402 clients)
Education	85% of adults (age 25+) have grade 12 or higher diploma (10% graduated college or trade school)
Health insurance	76% are insured

Community Profile

Historical context

Klickitat and Skamania Counties have much in common, despite some geographic and economic differences. Levels of **poverty** are above state and national averages, seasonal employment is common and affordable **housing** has become increasingly scarce. Both counties were hit hard by the 2008 recession and have again seen drastic job losses with the COVID-19 pandemic this year.

Levels of **education** have increased notably over the past two decades, though the percent of adults with college degrees still lags behind state and national averages. High school graduation hovers just above the 90% Washington state graduation rate in Klickitat, while rates are just below that in Skamania[2]. Both counties have suffered from **health care access** issues, with 30-40% of the population living in 'Health Professional Shortage Areas' with rates of local dentists, primary care and mental health providers well below state and national averages[3].

Klickitat County was home to the Klickitat and Wishram tribes for roughly 10,000 years before white settlers arrived in the 1850s - ultimately displacing the tribes mostly to the Yakama Reservation on the northern edge of the county. Much of the tribal economic base was destroyed in 1957 when Celilo Falls, a major fishing and trading center, was flooded by construction of The Dalles dam. Fewer than 700 indigenous people remain in the county, and fishing continues to be an important source of cultural and economic survival. The larger economy shifted to farming and timber, and later expanded into aluminium, then wine and unmanned aviation. Many jobs were lost in 2001 when the aluminum plant in Goldendale closed[4]. Since then employment has been somewhat volatile with job losses during the 2008-2009 recession, a strong recovery, followed by 2019 tech sector losses from cutbacks in the unmanned aviation industry, and recent pandemic unemployment hitting 12%[5]. All this has coupled with reduced affordable housing due to a booming tourist industry (converting long term housing to short term vacation rentals), land use limitations within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, and the growing tech sector attracting high wage earners to the community. The influx of high paying jobs has been an asset for our schools, and social service programs, which receive donations and volunteer hours from high wage earners. But

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[2] U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts, 2017-18. Retrieved from
https://engagementnetwork.org/assessment/chna_report/
[3] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2017. Retrieved from
https://engagementnetwork.org/assessment/chna_report/
[4] https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/county-profiles/klickitat
[5] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, retrieved from https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/WAKLIC9URN - Klickitat,
https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/WASKAM9URN - Skamania

local income inequality has been increasing since 2014[6] and few of our clients are qualified for these new jobs.

Most of Skamania County is forest land. Many families face their second or third generation of poverty after federal logging restrictions led to job losses in the timber industry. In 1992, unemployment topped 23% with the closure of Stevenson Co-Ply plywood mill - taking 10% of the county's jobs with it[7]. The next year the Skamania Lodge opened with almost the same number of jobs, shifting the economy from timber to tourism almost overnight - lowering wages and driving people to find work elsewhere. With the growing tourist appeal, outside investors have purchased more homes - about 1 in 5 dwellings are now owned by non-residents. Meanwhile, income inequality marched upward until about 2015 when it began declining. Residents have continued to look for work elsewhere, and by 2018, 77% of Skamania's earned income came from jobs outside the county[8]. The area has become a suburb for Portland and Vancouver, resulting in high housing prices despite a lack of housing inventory and employment opportunities.

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[6] U.S. Census Bureau, profile retrieved from https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/2020RATIO053039
[7] https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/county-profiles/skamania
[8] U.S. Census Bureau, profile retrieved from https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/2020RATIO053059

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Demographics Today *- Our community at a glance*

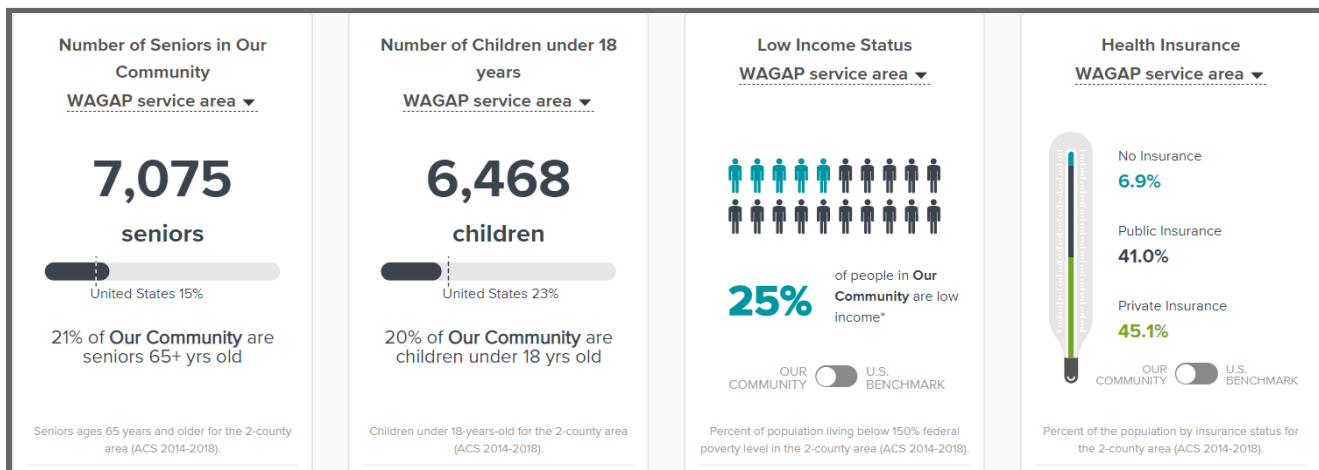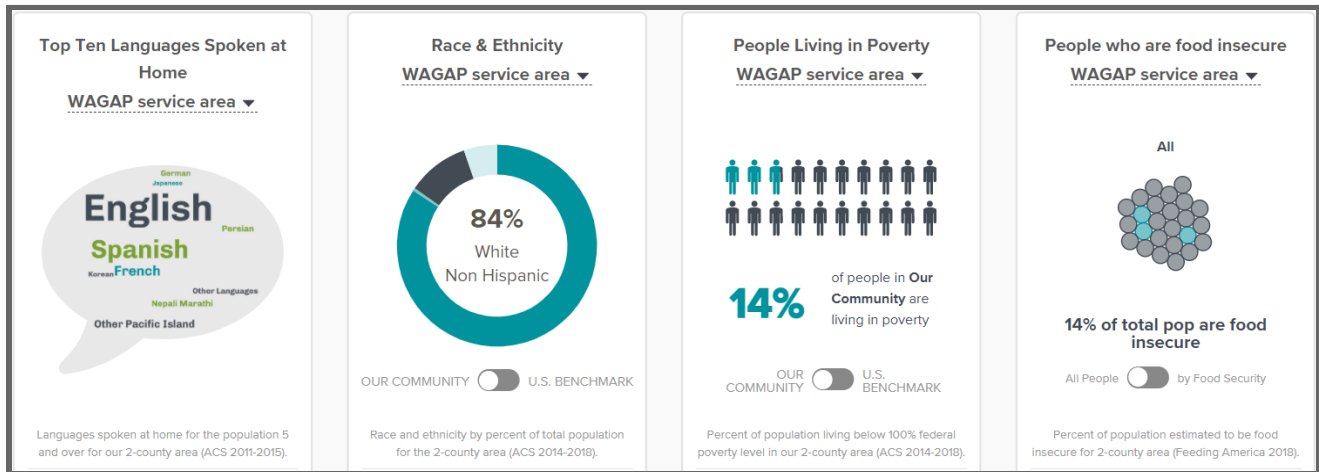| Population	Urban & Rural Population	Percent of Population with High School Education	Median Family Income
WAGAP service area ▼	WAGAP service area ▼	WAGAP service area ▼	WAGAP service area ▼
33,016 people	0% / 26% / Rural 74%	89% of people in **Our Community** have graduated HS	**$66,094** U.S. Dollars
Population change since 2010 **+5.2%**	▪ Suburban ▪ Urban ▪ Rural		OUR COMMUNITY $66,094 / WASHINGTON $84,182 / $73,965 UNITED STATES
Population and population change for the 2-county area (ACS 2014-2018).	Percent of total population of 2-county area (Decennial Census 2010).	HS = High School. Percent with HS education for the 2-county area (ACS 2014-2018).	Median family income for the 2-county area (ACS 2014-2018).

Spanning two counties in Southwest Washington, our agency serves a rural population. Most of whom graduated high school, but whose incomes fall notably short of state and national incomes.

Number of Seniors in Our Community	Number of Children under 18 years	Low Income Status	Health Insurance
WAGAP service area ▼	WAGAP service area ▼	WAGAP service area ▼	WAGAP service area ▼
7,075 seniors	**6,468** children	25% of people in **Our Community** are low income*	No Insurance 6.9% / Public Insurance 41.0% / Private Insurance 45.1%
United States 15%	United States 23%		
21% of **Our Community** are seniors 65+ yrs old	20% of **Our Community** are children under 18 yrs old		
Seniors ages 65 years and older for the 2-county area (ACS 2014-2018).	Children under 18-years-old for the 2-county area (ACS 2014-2018).	Percent of population living below 150% federal poverty level in the 2-county area (ACS 2014-2018).	Percent of the population by insurance status for the 2-county area (ACS 2014-2018).

We have **more seniors** living here than national and state averages and slightly less children, in part because our natural beauty and rural living attracts retirees to the area. At least ¼ of the population can be considered '**low income**', though our high cost of living suggests many people living above 150% of the Federal Poverty Line will also struggle to make ends meet. Most people have **health insurance** - a high percent of them use public insurance, including 28% whose low incomes qualify them for Medicaid[9].

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[9] U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2014-2018, retrieved from
https://engagementnetwork.org/assessment/chna_report/

Top Ten Languages Spoken at Home WAGAP service area ▾	Race & Ethnicity WAGAP service area ▾	People Living in Poverty WAGAP service area ▾	People who are food insecure WAGAP service area ▾

84% White Non Hispanic

14% of people in Our Community are living in poverty

All — 14% of total pop are food insecure

Languages spoken at home for the population 5 and over for our 2-county area (ACS 2011-2015).

Race and ethnicity by percent of total population for the 2-county area (ACS 2014-2018).

Percent of population living below 100% federal poverty level in our 2-county area (ACS 2014-2018).

Percent of population estimated to be food insecure for 2-county area (Feeding America 2018).

Most of our residents are White Non Hispanic. Hispanic is the next largest racial or ethnic group at 10% and Spanish is the second most spoken language. Native Americans are the 3rd largest group, representing 3% of the population. **Poverty** is a reality for at least 14% of us, and at least that many are food insecure. Poverty is highest in the eastern region where economic opportunities are limited.

Food Deserts in GREEN (low income & low access to grocery stores), USDA FARA2017 WAGAP service area by census tract

Created by Jody O'Connor

Children who are food insecure WAGAP service area

All — 22% of children are food insecure

Percent of children estimated to be food insecure for 2-county area (Feeding America 2018).

POVERTY by census block: darkest blue=21% live below Fed. Poverty Line WAGAP service area (ACS 2014-2018)

Created by Jody O'Connor

Healthy food is a challenge in our rural service area. Much of the area is considered a food desert because it's ***low-income with at least ⅓ of people living over 10 miles from a grocery store***[10]. Feeding America shows nearly 1 out of 4 children are food insecure, but local data indicate about 1 out of every 3 residents were food insecure before the pandemic[11], and **over half the participants in our survey worried about running out of food** in 2020.

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[10] USDA Food Research Atlas 2017 https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas
[11] Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment, 2019, https://www.cghealthcouncil.org/cha-chip

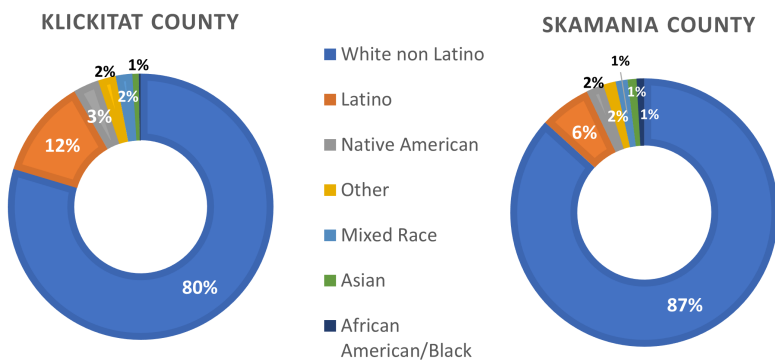COLIBRI CONSULTING

County Demographics

Klickitat County has nearly twice the population of Skamania County. Both have grown an average of 0.8% per year over the past decade, faster than other rural counties, but slower than Washington state overall (1.2%)[12]. Poverty is higher than the state average of 11%, with Klickitat having the greater share of residents living in poverty. Both counties have more seniors than the state average of 15%, and less children than the state's 22% average. Gender is evenly distributed with half being female and half male. Disability rates in Skamania are just above state and national averages of 12.6%, but nearly 18% of Klickitat residents are disabled. The majority of disabled residents live in the eastern part of the county, with highest concentrations in Goldendale, Wishram and Dallesport.

	Klickitat County	Skamania County
total population	21,721	11,753
total households	8,877	4,816
families with children	2,018	1,219
poverty rates	15.5% below 100% FPL, **38% below 200% FPL**	13% below 100% FPL, **27.5% below 200% FPL**
child poverty	45% below 200% FPL	40% below 200% FPL
% age 65+	24%	20%
% under age 18	20%	19%
% with a disability	**18%**	13%
source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2015-2019		

Over 95% of residents in both counties are U.S. citizens. In Klickitat, there are 9 times more Whites (non Latino) than any other racial or ethnic group. In Skamania, there are over 17 times more Whites. The second and third most represented groups in both counties are Latino and Native American. 33% of Klickitat Latinos and 20% Skamania Latinos don't speak English well[13].

KLICKITAT COUNTY

SKAMANIA COUNTY

Legend: White non Latino, Latino, Native American, Other, Mixed Race, Asian, African American/Black

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[12] Washington Office of Financial Management
[13] U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2014-2018

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Conditions of Poverty today

Poverty is real in our service area. Both counties suffer rates higher than the 11% state rate for people living below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and children are at even higher risk.

> ## 15.5% in poverty (38% below 200% FPL) - KLICKITAT COUNTY
>
> ## 13% in poverty (27.5% below 200% FPL) - SKAMANIA COUNTY

More middle age females live in poverty than any other age and gender, while young adult females and children under 12 also bear a large burden. Single females with children have the lowest median income by far than any other type of family. There are more White (non Latino) residents living in poverty than any other race or ethnicity, but this is largely because over 80% of the population is White. Looking at each racial/ethnic group individually, Native Americans suffer from the highest rate of poverty in Klickitat County, and African Americans/Blacks suffer the highest rate in Skamania County.

Poverty and Income Facts

	Klickitat County	Skamania County
Poverty Rate*	15.5% below 100% FPL	13% below 100% FPL
% of people with LOW INCOME*	38% below 200% FPL	27.5% below 200% FPL
Children in poverty*	17% below 100% FPL	23% below 100% FPL
% of children in LOW INCOME households*	45% below 200% FPL	40% below 200% FPL
% of Latinos living in poverty	10%	5%
% Native Americans living in poverty	**40%**	6%
Per capita income for Latinos	**$13,110**	$18,569
Per capita income for non Latinos	$27,914	$30,986
Median family income	$64,357	$69,292
Median family income for single females with children	**$20,250**	**$18,889**

Colibri Consulting

unemployment rate**	pre-pandemic = 4.3%, pandemic = 6-12%	pre-pandemic = 4.3%, pandemic = 7-15%
sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *ACS 2015-2019; and ACS 2014-2018 (all other income facts)		
** Bureau of Labor Statistics, retrieved from https://fred.stlouisfed.org		

Median family incomes are increasing in our area, but remain well below the median in Washington ($84,183). Per capita income has been increasing too, but is also below the state average ($36,887). Increases are partly due to an increase in higher paying jobs, but the most common wage still sits between $12-18 per hour[14].

Poverty by Gender - below 100% FPL

Females 18%, Males 12% IN POVERTY - KLICKITAT COUNTY (2014-2018)

Females 14%, Males 13% IN POVERTY - SKAMANIA COUNTY (2014-2018)

In both counties, women continue to earn less than men - partly because male dominated industries in the area (like manufacturing and construction) tend to pay more. Women hold more of the healthcare and social assistance, education, accomodation, food services and retail jobs in the area. Skamania County female workers earned 31% less than male workers in 2018, and in Klickitat, The average wage for jobs held by women paid just 57% of the average for jobs held by men[15].

Poverty by Age and Gender - Klickitat County

Females age 45 - 54 LARGEST DEMOGRAPHIC LIVING IN POVERTY

Share of poverty - 2018
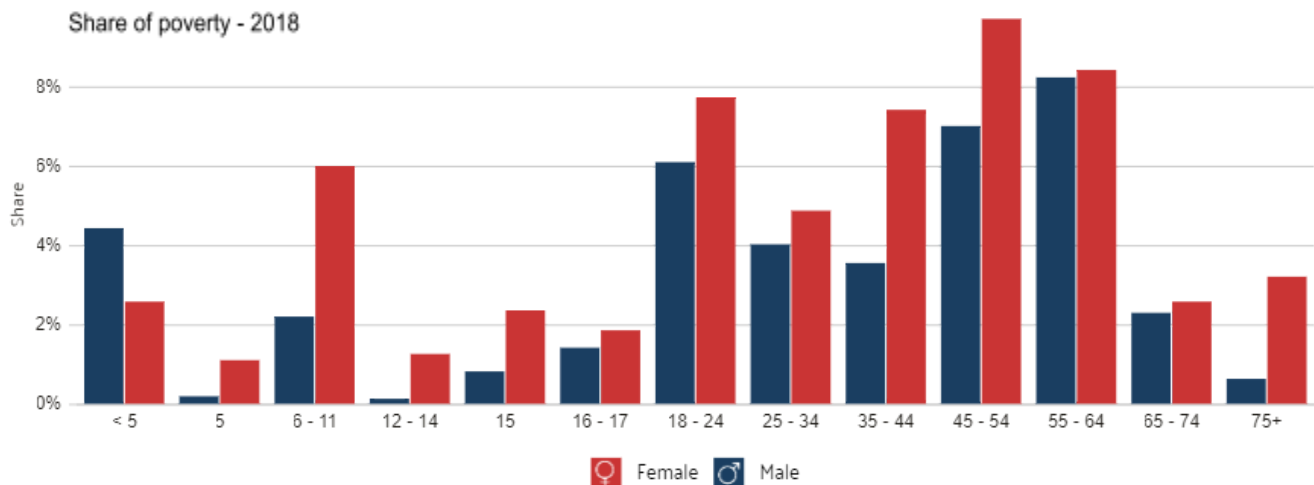
[14] Local Employment Dynamics database, 2019 retrieved from https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/county-profiles
[15] https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/county-profiles

More middle age females live in poverty than any other demographic, followed by middle age males. But during the 3 years before 2018, females age 18-24 were estimated to have the highest share of poverty (10-12%)[16].

Poverty by Age and Gender - Skamania County

Females age 55 - 64 LARGEST DEMOGRAPHIC LIVING IN POVERTY

The largest demographic living in poverty in Skamania County are females age 55 - 64, followed by males 55 - 64 and then females 18 - 24. Male and female children under 12 have had a large share of poverty in both counties over the last 5 years as well[16].
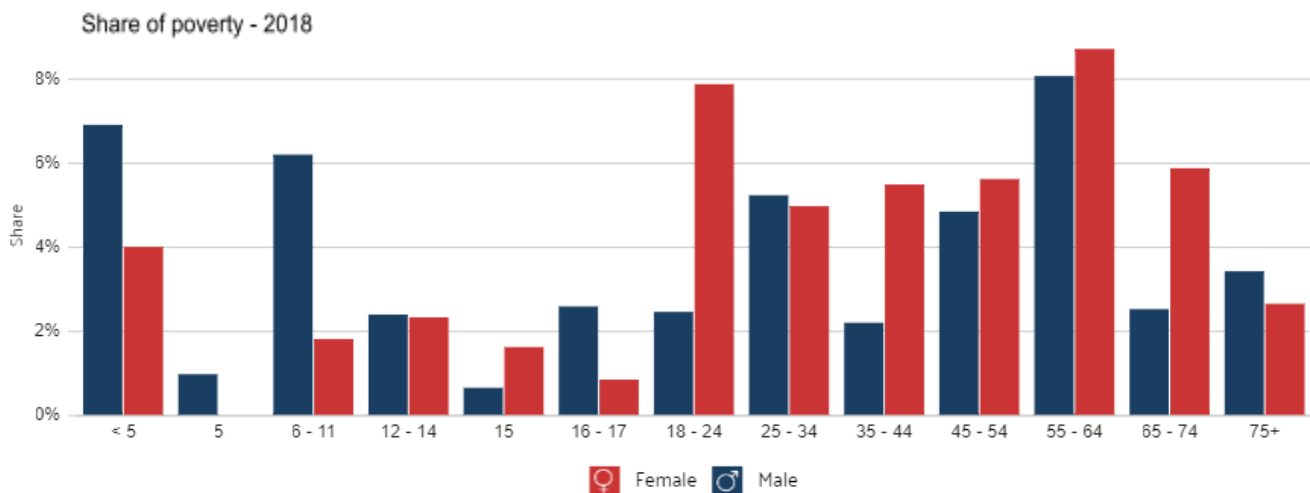
Poverty by Race/Ethnicity

More Whites (non Latino) live in poverty than any other ethnic or racial group in our area. But when the percent of people in poverty in each group is viewed, it's clear some groups suffer higher rates of poverty than the White majority.

40% of Native Americans (270 PEOPLE) live in poverty in KLICKITAT COUNTY,
25% of all minorities live in poverty, 16% of Whites live in poverty

38% of African Americans (39 PEOPLE) live in poverty SKAMANIA COUNTY,
18% of all minorities live in poverty, 14% of Whites live in poverty[16]

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[16] U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-year Estimate, 2018 data, visualizations retrieved from https://datausa.io
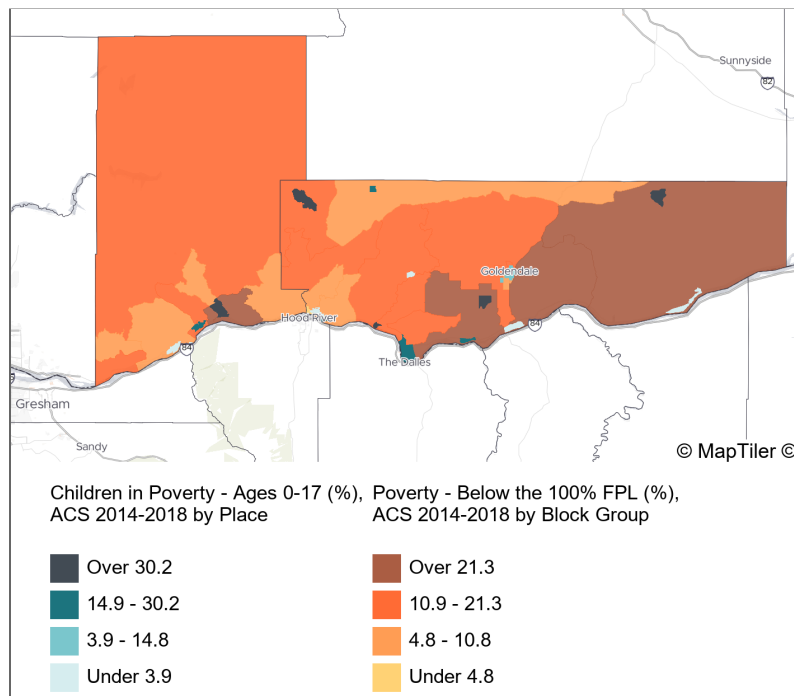
Poverty by Ethnicity and Race
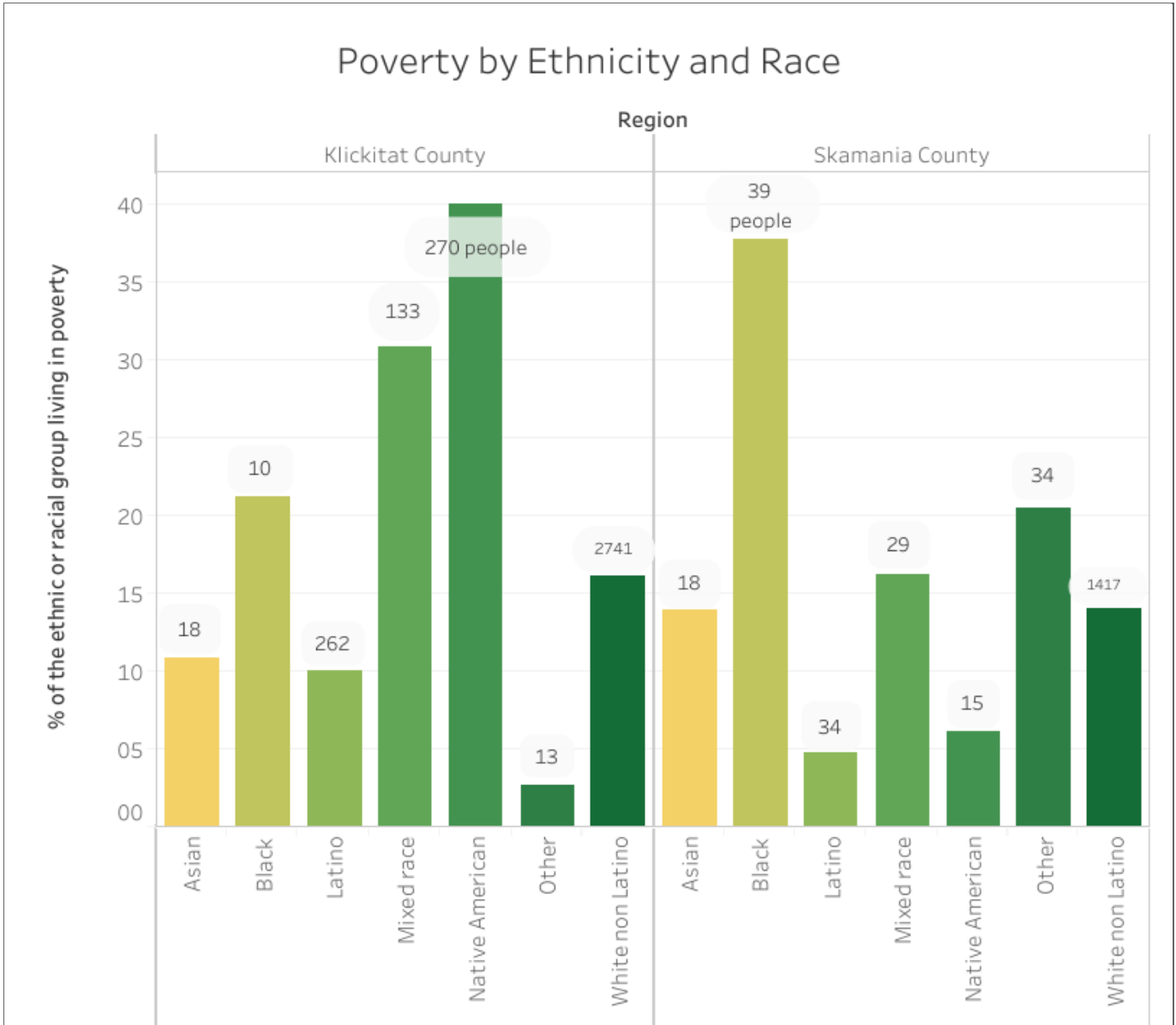
Our two counties are notably different in terms of which groups have the highest poverty rates. Also, being rural, both counties have small populations across each group - so 39 Black Skamania County residents in poverty represent 38% of the total Black population, while 270 Native Americans in Klickitat County represent 40% of all Native Americans living there. The number of people in poverty in each demographic group is shown in a bubble at the top of each bar.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-year estimate for 2018

Among all minority groups in Klickitat County in 2019, the most commonly held jobs were in agriculture (including fishing and forestry) - offering notably lower wages than manufacturing, which provides most of the jobs held by White non Latinos. The average monthly wage for Latinos in Klickitat was just 82% of the average wage for all jobholders. Native Americans in Skamania earned 69% of the county average wage, while non Latino Whites earned just over the average wage in both counties. There are few agriculture jobs in Skamania County, where Latinos held more manufacturing jobs than any other type of job. The second most common job for Latinos was in accommodation and food services (these are typically low-wage tourism related jobs). All other groups, including Whites, held more tourism related jobs than any other in Skamania.[17]

Poverty by location

Poverty is most prevalent in the east, where economic opportunities are limited and job site commutes are long, though some western towns (Carson, Lyle, Dallesport) also have poverty rates over 20%. Child poverty in towns is highlighted in shades of blue in this map, revealing **over 30% of kids in Carson, Lyle and Trout Lake living in poverty** (Bickleton and Cenerville are also above 30%, but with less than 25 children living there the margin of error is very high). 15-30% of children in Glenwood, Dallesport, Stevenson and Bingen live below the Poverty Line.

Children in Poverty - Ages 0-17 (%), ACS 2014-2018 by Place

- ■ Over 30.2
- ■ 14.9 - 30.2
- ■ 3.9 - 14.8
- □ Under 3.9

Poverty - Below the 100% FPL (%), ACS 2014-2018 by Block Group

- ■ Over 21.3
- ■ 10.9 - 21.3
- ■ 4.8 - 10.8
- □ Under 4.8

U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2014-2018, map retrieved from https://www.broadstreet.io/map

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[17] Local Employment Dynamics database, 2019, from https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/county-profiles/klickitat

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Key Findings

Our framework for assessing community needs and strengths aligns with the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) system and with the National Association for State Community Services Programs' standards for community assessment.[18] Assessment methods are presented in Appendix A. Methodology.

Assets and Resources

The **WAGAP leadership team** is an important asset for our organization and the community - their motivation for the work they do is key to our success. When asked about the most rewarding things they're involved in at work, responses reflect WAGAP's mission to help people help themselves: seeing people break unhealthy cycles, feeding people, helping people keep their heat and lights on, seeing kids improve socially and emotionally, and so on.

Volunteers are another invaluable resource. Community members provide around 7000 volunteer hours each year through WAGAP's Food Bank program. In 2019 our volunteers donated 7392 hours at the Food Bank and another 352 hours at other WAGAP programs. Numbers were lower in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we anticipate our volunteers will make a strong comeback in 2021.

referred services	
Community Youth Center	20
Our Klickitat	20
COVID-19 Relief Fund	21
Second Hand Rose thrift store	23
PathwaysCommunity Health Connect	24
Housing and Essential Needs (HEN)	28
Home Energy Assistance	29
Programs for Peaceful Living	30
Emergency services	35
Food Bank	37

number of partners that refer clients to each WAGAP service (out of the 40 who took our survey)

An extensive network of **partner organizations** is a vital asset in our community, including over 100 community, faith based, public sector, private sector and educational institutions. A wide variety of organizations were listed as 'resources' in partner surveys and interviews. Organizations receiving the most mentions include WAGAP (especially the food bank), the White Salmon Valley Education Foundation, Mt. Adams Transportation Services, the school districts, Senior Services, WorkSource,
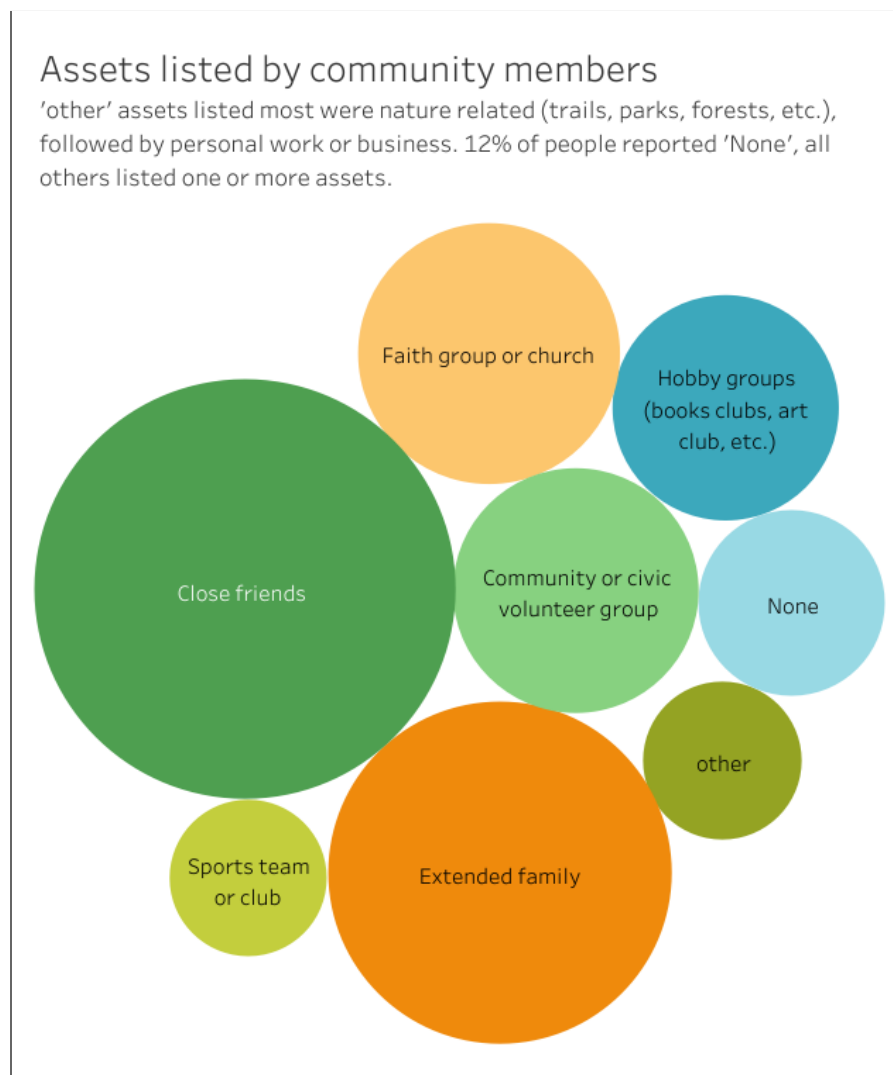
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[18] https://nascsp.org/csbg/csbg-resources/roma/ and
https://nascsp.org/csbg/csbg-resources/performance-management/community-needs-assessment/)

Comprehensive Mental Health and our local public hospitals. A complete table of partner identified resources (organized by need type, with developing resources highlighted) is presented in Appendix F.

Each WAGAP program is utilized as a resource by our partners. Almost all agency partners who took our survey refer people to the Food Bank, as well as our Emergency Services (which include the Emergency Shelter, Permanent Supportive Housing and Rental Assistance). Programs for Peaceful Living (violence prevention and crime victim services) and our housing related services were also referred by about ¾ of all partners, and all other programs receive referrals from at least half of our partners.

Assets listed by community members
'other' assets listed most were nature related (trails, parks, forests, etc.), followed by personal work or business. 12% of people reported 'None', all others listed one or more assets.

Faith group or church
Hobby groups (books clubs, art club, etc.)
Close friends
Community or civic volunteer group
None
other
Sports team or club
Extended family

People are willing to help each other in our community and 88% reported feeling safe here, according to the 2019 Regional CHA[19] - which is important for building *Social Capital*. We also have a lot of *Natural Capital* in our open space, trails and scenery that helps people maintain good physical and mental health, and supports the tourism economy. When asked '*What are you involved in locally that helps you live a happy life or get support when you need it?*', most survey participants listed at least one asset. Friends and family were mentioned most, with civic, faith and social groups playing a large role as well. 'Other' wri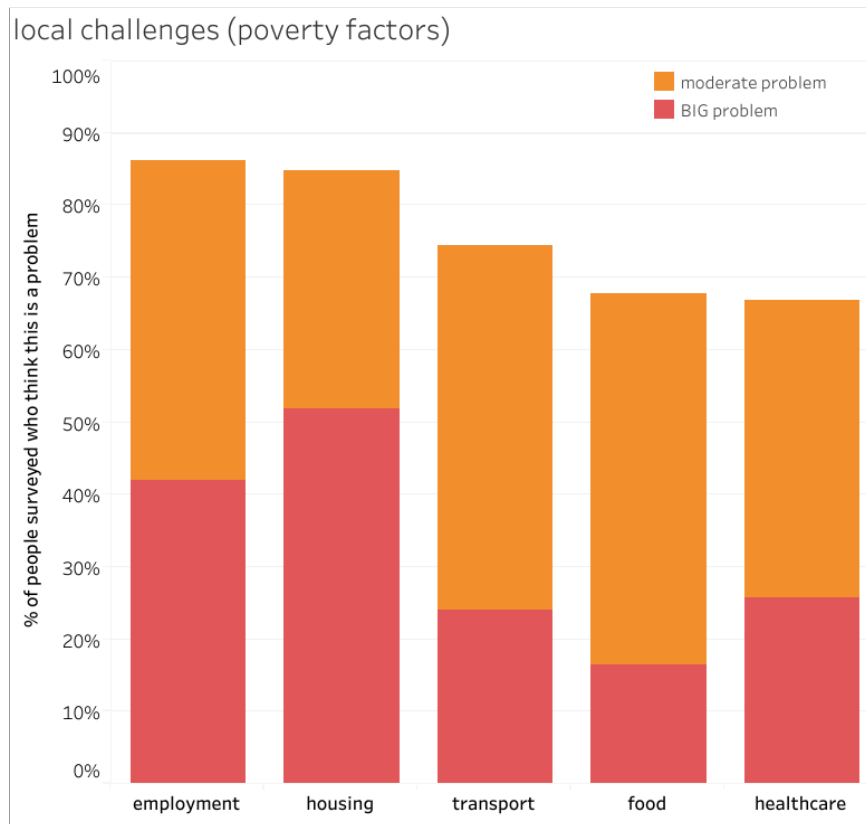te-ins were dominated by *Natural Capital* (parks, trails, forests, fishing, etc.), followed by personal work or business.

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[19] Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment, 2019, https://www.cghealthcouncil.org/cha-chip

Causes of Poverty today *and the needs they create*

The CAUSES of poverty reduce access to resources and create barriers to self sufficiency.

Poverty is complex, but there are some factors that rise to the surface of most inquiries around *HOW* and *WHY* so many people in our area are struggling. Based on WAGAP staff knowledge, and on community input from our regional Community Health Improvement Plan,[20] we chose to ask community members about the causes of 5 key factors: **employment, food, housing, healthcare** and **transportation**. We collected 626 Community Member Surveys, and the responses came from people who match our service area demographics in terms of race, ethnicity and adult age, though we didn't survey youth and we had more women respond than men. We also surveyed more people in poverty (39% of respondents) than there are in our service area (14%). Survey participant demographic details can be found in Appendix B.
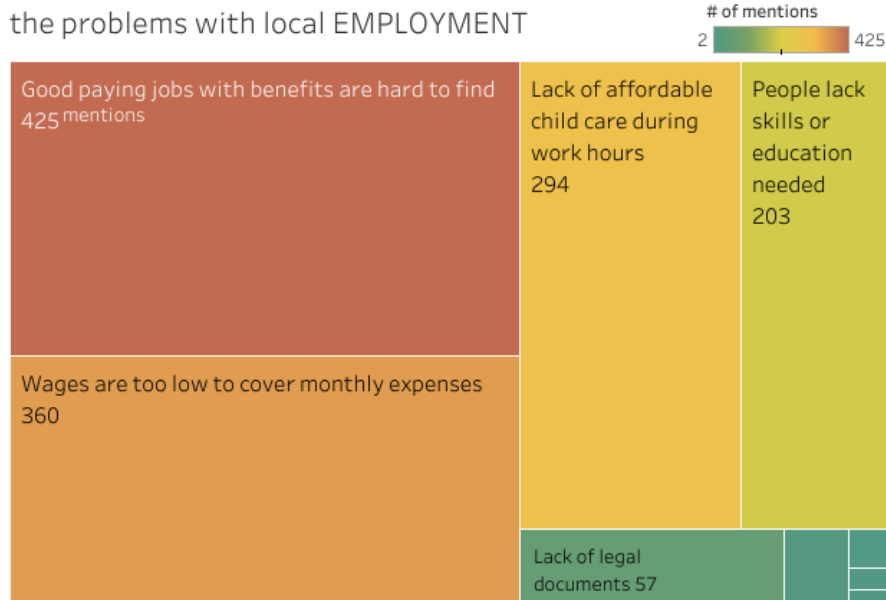

local challenges (poverty factors)

The answers people shared highlight certain aspects of poverty that can be targeted by programs and community collaborations.

Over 60% of surveyed community members told us that all key factors continue to be problematic. **Employment** and **housing** are considered challenges by over 80% of people surveyed, and housing is seen as a BIG problem by over half of them.

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[20] Regional Community Health Improvement Plan, 2020, https://www.cghealthcouncil.org/cha-chip

Employment *- 86% say this is a challenge in our area, 42% think it's a BIG problem*

the problems with local EMPLOYMENT

# of mentions
2 ▮▮▮▮▮ 425

Good paying jobs with benefits are hard to find
425 mentions

Wages are too low to cover monthly expenses
360

Lack of affordable child care during work hours
294

People lack skills or education needed
203

Lack of legal documents 57

Over half of surveyed community members say it's hard to find jobs with good wages and benefits - and that wages do not cover monthly expenses in our area. Childcare and education are also widely seen as barriers to employment and 9% of people say legal documents (like green cards) are a problem. Other problems shared by multiple people include slow or spotty internet, and discrimination.

Needs to target for poverty reduction, *with current context data*

Job creation with livable wages. Agriculture provides the bulk of jobs for minorities in our area, while tourism related jobs are common for women. Both groups suffer from higher poverty rates than others, and these industries mostly offer low-wage jobs. The most common wage in both counties is between $12-18 per hour. On the high end, that can be considered low income (below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line) for a person working full time and supporting a family of 3. On the low end it would put a *single* person working full time in the low income range. Part time workers could easily fall into poverty at these wages.

Childcare. Access to affordable childcare was identified by WAGAP Leaders as an important piece of the poverty picture. Without childcare and afterschool programs, parents are unable to work away from the home, limiting the income potential of many families - especially those without internet access or education required for many online jobs. Even before COVID-19, preschools and daycare providers were few and far between in our area. Across the Columbia Gorge region, 81% of children under the age of 2 do not have a regulated childcare spot available to them, and this shortage impacts all income levels.[21]

Training and education. From 2015-2018, 29% of Klickitat County adults (25 and older) had a bachelor's degree or higher. This number is increasing faster than it is state-wide, but still lags
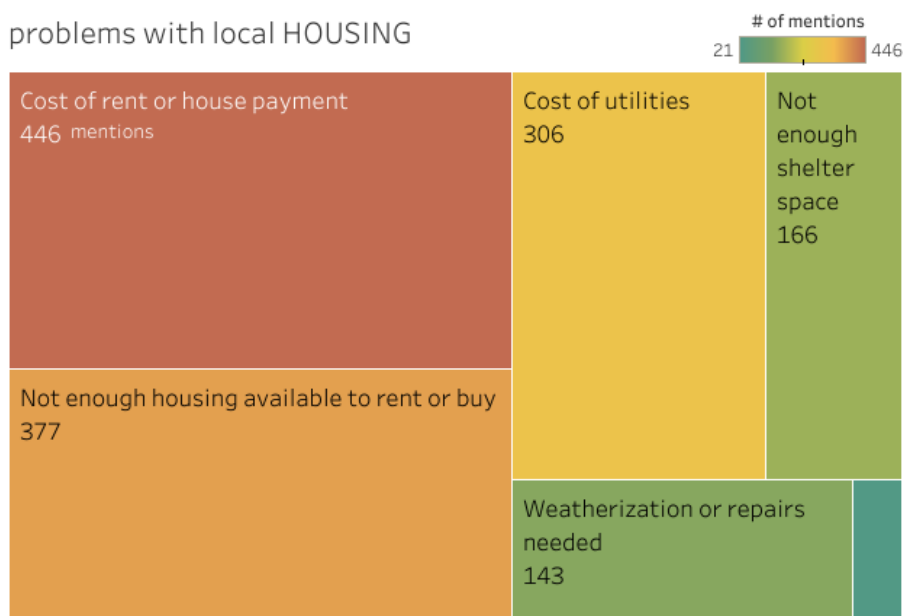
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[21] Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment, 2019, https://www.cghealthcouncil.org/cha-chip

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behind the 35% of Washington adults with higher education. Over the past two decades, the number of Skamania County adults with higher education nearly doubled, from 12% to 24%.[22] This is partly due to the tech manufacturing sector drawing specialized employees in, and to the growing suburban role the county plays for people working in Portland and Vancouver. High school graduation rates have been rising too, with both counties close to the 90% Washington state graduation rate. However, reading proficiency for 4th graders is below state and national levels (at 37% in our area vs. 53% in Washington).[23] The extent of COVID-19 impact on education is not yet clear, and while education levels are generally looking better, there is still room for improvement. Especially when it comes to higher education and specialized training needed for high paying tech jobs in the area.

Internet access. About **20% of households in our area have no internet at home** - presenting huge educational and employment challenges, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our rural areas lack infrastructure (fiber optic, 4G cell or DSL networks) for high speed, stable internet. The cost of internet services that do exist run at least $50/month and is a barrier for low income families. Online learning and employment are nearly impossible in these homes, and it's also harder to apply for jobs and government assistance, among other challenges.

Housing *- 85% say this is a challenge in our area, 52% think it's a BIG problem*

problems with local HOUSING

# of mentions
21 ▮▮▮▮▮▮ 446

Cost of rent or house payment
446 mentions

Not enough housing available to rent or buy
377

Cost of utilities
306

Not enough shelter space
166

Weatherization or repairs needed
143

Over 70% of surveyed community members say the cost of housing is a problem and over 60% say there's not enough housing available to rent or buy. Utility costs, lack of shelter space and weatherization or repairs are widely considered problematic too.

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[22] U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts, retrieved from https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/county-profiles
[23] U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts, 2017-19. Retrieved from
https://engagementnetwork.org/assessment/chna_report/

Needs to target *for poverty reduction,* *with current context data*

Housing affordability and availability. Housing affordability was identified as the top priority during the WAGAP/Health Department CHIP focus group. Availability is a problem too, even though housing vacancy rates in our area are more than double the state average. Most vacancies are considered 'vacant for other use', which usually means they're used by temporary occupants (this includes vacation rentals, second homes and temporary worker housing). Vacancies are high in tourist towns as well as more remote areas, but probably for different reasons (vacation rentals vs. worker housing for example). This is not helpful for area residents, many of whom spend over 30% of their incomes on housing. Median property values are high and growing rapidly, making it **hard to find affordable rentals** and even harder to purchase a home. The American Community Survey put 2018 median property values in the mid to high $200K range, but real estate search engines return few available houses and generally at much higher prices. In addition, there are few long-term rentals available. These factors drive rent above Fair Market estimates, and out of reach for many low income families.

Housing Facts:	Klickitat County	Skamania County	source
housing vacancy rate	**17%**	**19.50%**	ACS 2014-2018
housing cost burden (exceeds 30% of income)	**29% of households (47% of renters)**	**29% of households (41% of renters)**	ACS 2014-2018, affordablehousing online.com
housing cost burden **(exceeds 50% of income)**	26% of households	*insufficient data*	2019 Regional CHA
median property value (2018)	$235,900 (8% 1-year growth)	$282,400 (14% 1-year growth)	ACS 5-year estimate, datausa.io
Middle-priced home value (January 2021)	$337,500	$378,000	Zillow Home Value Index
median homeowner costs (with mortgage)	$1,523 per month	$1,649 per month	Census Quickfacts (2015-2019)
Fair Market Rent (2-3 bedroom home)	$1,246 per month	$1,916 per month	www.rentdata.org (2019)
% of population renting (2018)	34%	29%	ACS 2014-2018, datausa.io

The government has helped people with low wages access trailers but this program is disappearing. When low cost housing is eliminated new options must be created. People are being displaced to The Dalles [Oregon]. Driving for work is dangerous for undocumented people and housing displacement increases this risk. [translated from Spanish]

~ Latina Community Health Worker, Husum resident

Affordable housing in our area is so scarce it causes homelessness. It makes it hard to get healthcare providers to come here too. Some homeless people here already work full time and can't afford housing - where is the "out"?

~ WAGAP / Klickitat County Health Department focus group

Other housing costs. Nearly half of the people we surveyed listed utilities as a problem. The cost of utilities, repairs and weatherization can be a burden for low income residents, leading to sub-standard, or even unsafe living conditions.

Shelter space. Over ¼ of people surveyed say there's not enough shelter space in their community. This includes warming shelters, homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters. Exact numbers of homelessness in our area is not known, but in 2013 Klickitat County reported 424 homeless people (2% of the population), and Skamania reported 312 homeless (2.7% of the population), according to their *10-Year Homeless Housing Plans*.[24] These numbers are notably higher than Annual Point in Time Counts tracked by the state's Department of Commerce, but those counts don't capture school aged children and are likely to miss many others given that the count happens in January (when the homeless are harder to find), limited counting resources and the large area covered. Job losses due to COVID-19 may increase immediate need for shelters, rental assistance and other housing programs as well.

Goldendale needs a real homeless shelter.   ~ Father's House Fellowship interview response
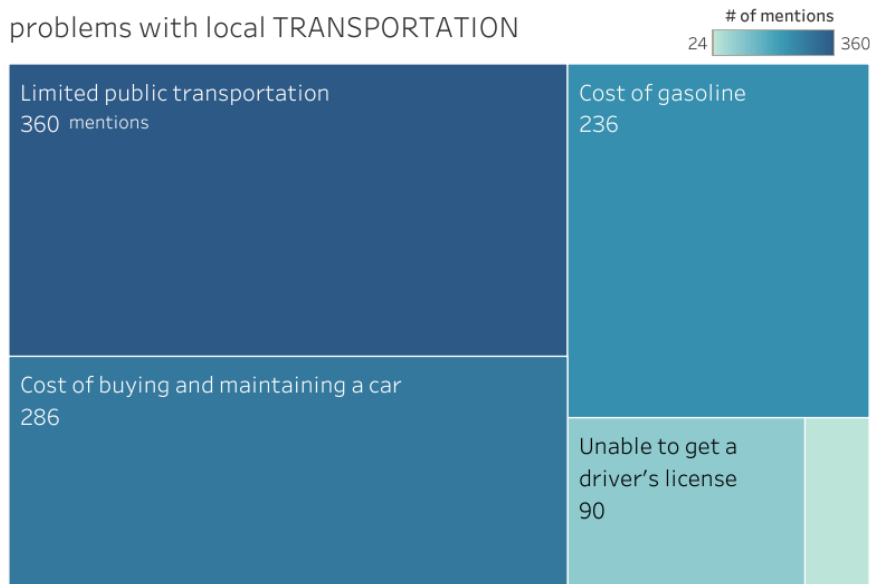
In Skamania County, we know for a fact that there are MANY more homeless than the data shows. I've personally gone out to do the annual counts and many of the homeless living "in the woods" do NOT want to be identified for several reasons... since homelessness has been "criminalized" by virtue of the fact that law enforcement is almost always the first to respond to calls made related to the homeless or to intervene in activities of the homeless, rather than have social workers be the first responders.

~ WAGAP Housing programs staff member, personal communication

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[24] https://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/2019/homelessness/documents/Klickitat.pdf, and
https://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/2019/homelessness/documents/Skamania.pdf

Transportation *- 74% say this is a challenge, 24% think it's a BIG problem*

problems with local TRANSPORTATION

# of mentions
24 ▦ 360

| Limited public transportation 360 mentions | Cost of gasoline 236 |
| Cost of buying and maintaining a car 286 | Unable to get a driver's license 90 |

Lack of affordable, reliable transportation contributes to poverty because it's a barrier to self-sufficiency. Over half of surveyed community members say that limited public transportation is a problem. The costs associated with owning a car are widely considered problematic too, and 14% say getting a driver's license is also an issue. Other problems shared by multiple people include barriers to pedestrian and bike travel (highways and bridges without bike lanes, long travel distances and steep terrain), and the cost of interstate bridge tolls.

Needs to target for poverty reduction, with current context data

Expanded transportation options. Transportation and mobility was identified as the number 3 priority during the WAGAP/Health Department CHIP focus group. In 2019, 8-12% of people reported going without healthcare because of transportation issues.[25] A public transportation network is supported through Gorge TransLink, but there are not enough bus stops or routes available to support many daily living needs, especially in areas outside of towns. Additional mobility solutions are still needed to impact poverty - especially reliable, rural and affordable options.

Transportation is a significant cost for employees at eastern Klickitat County job sites. Many sites are agricultural and rely on seasonal farmworkers (most of whom are minorities likely to be struggling with poverty). Often there is no housing nearby and employee turnover is high because of the long commute. Mobility solutions that help employees "share rides or improve the reliability of their rides will decrease household expenses and improve household economic success," according to a 2019 Transportation Report.[26] TransLink partners

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[25] Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment, 2019, https://www.cghealthcouncil.org/cha-chip
[26] Rural Transportation Options in Klickitat County, pg.25, 2019,
https://www.nado.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/MCEDD_commuteoptions_final.pdf

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developed a 2018 Human Services Transportation Plan[27] that included the 'transit disadvantaged population' in a needs analysis with proposed strategies. Some of these, like recruiting volunteer drivers and outreach and education, could benefit from more partnership with social service agencies like WAGAP.

Transportation is improving but those in rural areas still struggle. The bus doesn't do you any good if you can't get to town.
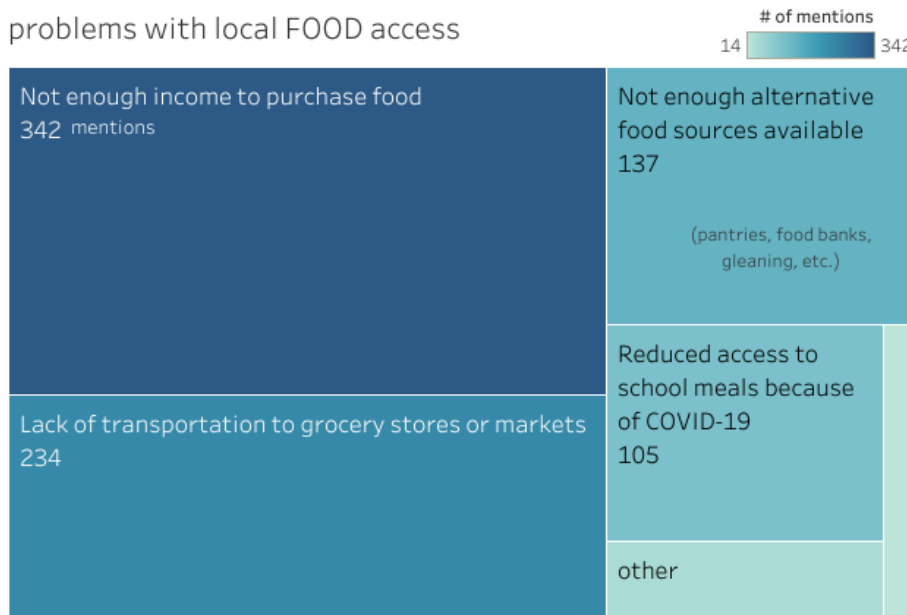
~ WAGAP / Klickitat County Health Department focus group

[We] need public transportation available to everyone. Public transportation needs to run from Goldendale to White Salmon, not just to The Dalles. Currently only medical appointments are available through Mt. Adams transportation.

~ Klickitat County Sheriff's Office survey response

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[27] https://gorgetranslink.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/HSTP-Adopted-20181106.pdf

Food *- 68% say this is a challenge, 17% think it's a BIG problem*

problems with local FOOD access

# of mentions
14   342

Not enough income to purchase food 342 mentions	Not enough alternative food sources available 137 (pantries, food banks, gleaning, etc.)
Lack of transportation to grocery stores or markets 234	Reduced access to school meals because of COVID-19 105
	other

Over half the people we surveyed say food is a problem because incomes don't cover the cost, and multiple people added that there are no affordable grocery stores nearby. Lack of transportation and a need for more alternative sources like food pantries and gleaning options are also concerning.

Feeding America listed nearly 1 out of 4 children as food insecure in our area in 2018. But local data indicate about 1 out of 3 residents worried about running out of food before the pandemic[28], and among our survey participants it was even higher (42% were worried). After COVID-19 arrived, **over half the people we surveyed worried about running out of food.**

before COVID-19

Did you or the people you live with worry that you would run out of food?
■ No
■ Sometimes
■ Yes, many times

13%
29%
58%

after COVID-19

17%
47%
36%

Needs to target for poverty reduction, *with current context data*

Food access. Most of our service area is considered a *"food desert"*, meaning a low-income area where least 33% of the population lives more than 10 miles from the nearest source of healthy and affordable food.[29] Transportation and distance to the store were the 2nd and 3rd biggest reasons people in our region ran out of food according to a regional Food Survey in 2015. Over ¼ of participants in that survey asked for cooking, nutrition and food preservation classes, which could help alleviate shortages of healthy foods when trips to the store are not possible. [30]

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[28] Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment, 2019, https://www.cghealthcouncil.org/cha-chip
[29] USDA Food Access Research Atlas, 2017, retrieved from bradstreet.io
[30] Gorge Wide Food Survey, Columbia Gorge CCO Consumer Advisory Council, 2015

Food affordability. Food cost was the the #1 reason it was hard for Food Survey participants in the region to get food in 2015. Feeding America calculated that over 3 million dollars is needed to cover the annual food shortfall existing in our two counties. Food subsidies help, but ¼ of food insecure people in Skamania County (and 14% in Klickitat) are not eligible for State or Federal nutrition assistance. For children the rate is even higher.[31]

Food assistance. Food banks fill a vital role here, but when half the people still worry about running out of food, it's clear there is more work to be done. WAGAP supported community efforts to start a new food bank site in Lyle in 2020, which was listed as one of the community's greatest assets by a Native American resident and Community Health Worker. This is significant because Native American communities here have been historically difficult to connect with when it comes to providing services.

The recent food bank site is helpful because people are spreading the word and seeing others going in and then they start to open up and feel comfortable going in too.

~ Native American Community Health Worker, Lyle resident, interview response

A new food box delivery program was developed by The Wave NW Foundation in 2020 that now brings around 600 boxes of food to Native American treaty fishing access sites in our area every 2 weeks. To do this, they reached out to the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), to learn about needs and barriers in that community (such as lack of clean water and refrigeration), and resources (such as the Fish Co Building in Bingen with freezer and dry storage space). By taking time to build a strong relationship with CRITFC leaders they were able to set up a new food distribution system that is working in that community. They have not collaborated much with local agencies thus far, however, and it's not clear whether their mission or funding will support food assistance into the future, after emergency pandemic funding streams diminish. But the need for food assistance for hard to reach populations in our area will continue after 2020. Using The Wave's model for reaching out and building relationships with leaders in these communities, and approaching The Wave to build a partner relationship could help such communities receive the assistance they need going forward.

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[31] Feeding America, 2017, retrieved from https://engagementnetwork.org/assessment/chna_report/
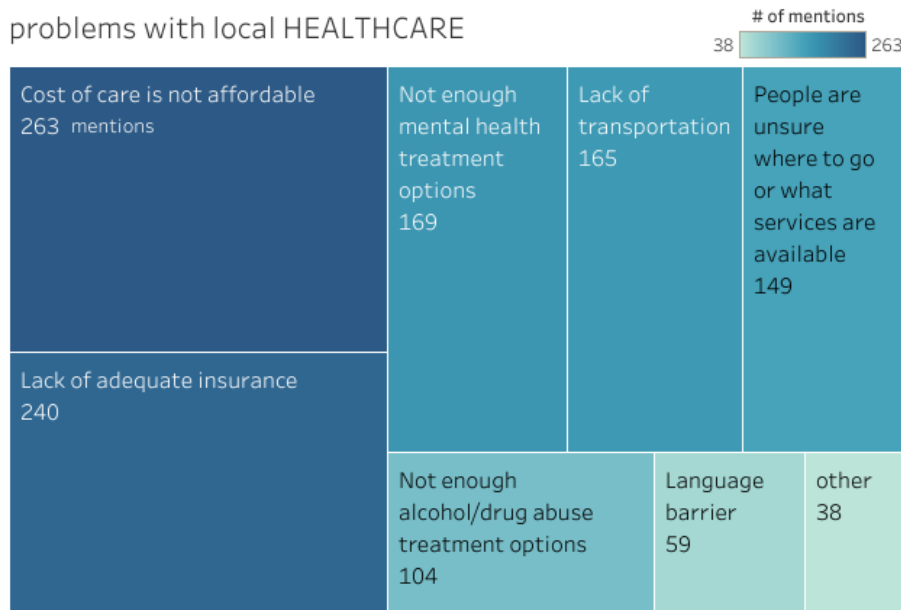
School districts provide a lot of student meals during the school year, and have put extra effort into providing food for entire families during the COVID pandemic. But they do not have a shared nutrition supervisor - typically the school cooks fill this role, which doesn't leave much time for raising funds or coordinating new programs.

The school districts are working hard to provide school meals to their students, but the 12 districts are small, serving families from large rural areas. This gives them limited capacity to tap into existing resources that could improve food security, such as summer meal programs.

~ Food Security Coalition member, interview response

Healthcare *- 67% say this is a challenge, 26% think it's a BIG problem*

problems with local HEALTHCARE

# of mentions
38 — 263

Cost of care is not affordable
263 mentions

Lack of adequate insurance
240

Not enough mental health treatment options
169

Lack of transportation
165

People are unsure where to go or what services are available
149

Not enough alcohol/drug abuse treatment options
104

Language barrier
59

other
38

There are a lot of reasons healthcare is viewed as a problem in our area. Around 40% of people surveyed say it's not affordable and insurance is inadequate. There are not enough treatment options for mental and behavioral health and transportation is often a problem because providers tend to be few and far between. In many cases people are unsure about where to go or what services are available, and medical information is hard to understand. Some people also say they do not trust the system or the providers.

Needs to target *for poverty reduction, with current context data*

Mental and behavioral health. Multiple participants in our Community Member Survey wrote extra comments about drug abuse being a problem. Access to mental health services was identified as the second highest priority during the WAGAP/Health Department CHIP focus group. In our service area, 30-40% of the population live in 'Health Professional Shortage Areas' and rates of mental health providers (along with dentists and primary care providers) are

well below state and national averages[32]. It's unclear exactly how mental health issues affect poverty here, but research shows depressed workers suffer more job loss than their coworkers.[33] And we know there is **stigma around mental health** in our Latino and Native American communities, causing people to avoid seeking help (as revealed in Community Health Worker interviews). To compound the stigma, there are very few Spanish speaking, Latino or Native American therapists in the region - creating a cultural barrier to seeking help as well. Teens in our area have been suffering from depression and suicidal feelings - 41% of high school seniors in Skamania and 45% in Klickitat reported depressive feelings and 27% considered attempting suicide in 2018.[34] It's not known how many adults are suffering in this way, but we do know 1 out of 4 youth had unmet mental health care needs in both counties in 2019, and 31% of adults in Klickitat reported an unmet need (Skamania County data was inconclusive).[35]

> *We have a lack of services for mental health. [It] should be affordable and we need to reduce stigma. A large percent of the homeless have mental health issues and many are untreated. Parents need help for their children with special needs and it almost seems as if the service is hiding. It's a struggle to get help when in crisis.*
>
> ~ WAGAP / Klickitat County Health Department focus group

> *Two of my children have been referred to local mental health counselors by our family's general practitioner. Unfortunately, the waitlist for pediatric mental health is closed to new patients or has a year-long wait list; our only recourse under our insurance policy is a drive into Vancouver or Portland. For regular weekly sessions for two growing children, this is an untenable situation. It is clear that our community faces many hurdles with mental health, but access to practitioners (especially pediatric providers covered by insurance) is at a crisis level.*
>
> ~ Female, White Salmon resident, survey response

Healthcare navigators. Community Health Workers (CHWs) have taken a larger role in keeping people connected to health services in our region over the last decade. This is important because they are trusted and can help people find and understand the services they need. Our regional Care Coordination Agency started supporting the CHW model in 2019 with their Pathways HealthConnect program that is now one of WAGAP's services. K-Link, a recent collaboration between local clinics, primary care and mental health providers, Bingen/White Salmon Police Department, WSV School District, Klickitat County Health Department, WAGAP

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[32] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Area Health Resource File, 2017. Retrieved from https://engagementnetwork.org/assessment/chna_report/

[33] Lerner DJ, Henke R. What does research tell us about depression, job performance and work productivity? J Occup Environ Med. 2008;50:401–410.

[34] WA State Healthy Youth Survey 2018 https://www.askhys.net/FactSheets

[35] Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment, 2019, https://www.cghealthcouncil.org/cha-chip

and other community organizations secured funding to support CHW Community of Practice gatherings and partner networking, and to support placement of new CHWs at some of these organizations.

People don't call CHWs to access resources or info. We need wrap-around services to make sure people access services or make calls to get the info they need - we have to spend more time with people one-on-one.

~ Native American Community Health Worker, Lyle resident, interview response

Collaboration. The K-Link collaboration can impact many healthcare related problems in our area, since many of them are related to lack of information, understanding and trust. The force behind such a diverse collaboration also has potential to create solutions to problems related to provider shortages.

Equity

In Klickitat County, 33% of 2019 Health Assessment survey participants experienced unfair treatment because of race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.[36] In addition, low wages and poverty tend to be highest among minority populations and women. A small number of our 2020 survey participants wrote-in racism or discrimination as problems in our community - either in general or specifically associated wtih employment. If the survey had included a question about levels of discrimination, more poeple may have reported it as a problem.

'There is a huge gap between the communities that need services and those who don't. [There's] no understanding of how much trauma is responsible for poverty and addiction.'

~ WAGAP / Klickitat County Health Department focus group

Needs to target for poverty reduction, with current context data

Relationship building. Native American communities in our service area struggle with each of the key poverty factors described in this assessment, but they have additional challenges to consider for poverty reduction. As revealed in our Native American leaders focus group, there's a lack of trust among Native Americans in our area - especially when it comes to trusting organizations or individuals from outside their own community. Continuing outreach that respectfully acknowledges individual strengths and knowledge in these communities, is needed to break down this barrier. Phone calls and online outreach typically are not well received, so personal communication is important. **Community Health Workers who are**

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[36] Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment, 2019, https://www.cghealthcouncil.org/cha-chip

from the community, or even from another Tribal community, can most readily build the relationships needed to connect people with resources that help them get out of poverty. The nature of the needs and types of programming that would be most embraced among our Native American communities is still not entirely clear. Collecting stories (not just numbers) would help WAGAP and other agencies understand this population's needs better.

Hire people who are culturally sensitive to the issues and will help people navigate the systems. The paperwork can be overwhelming.

~ Nch'i Wana Housing partner survey response

Leadership development. Latino community members across the Columbia River in Oregon have formed a number of leadership groups with support from agencies like The Next Door. These groups have identified solutions to their own problems, helped get Latinos on school and transportation boards, built a community farm and influenced legislation through these groups. Some of our area residents cross the river to participate in these groups. Though the number of Latinos here are fewer, they do understand their own challenges better than anyone else, and could benefit from leadership development to identify solutions. The same could be said for single mothers in poverty, or any other struggling community.

Among our Native American communities there are few elders available to lead as they have in the past. The Natives Along the Big River Coalition has been building Native American leadership since 2018, but while some members are from our service area, the coalition is based in Oregon and could benefit from more outreach on the Washington side of the river.

There's a lot of despair. There's racism and historical trauma and mental health needs are high. The elders are pretty blown apart out here. We need tools for cultural recovery. The old tools [like systems for sharing child care] are no longer around.

~ Natives Along the Big River Coalition member and Lyle resident, interview response

Client Satisfaction

Thank you so much for all your assistance helping my homeless mother, I'll be forever grateful ❤
~ Female, White non Latino survey participant

Satisfaction

WAGAP has helped me learn how or where to get services or other things I need

Working with WAGAP has made me feel more hopeful about my community or my life

33%
37%
24%

26%
33%
38%

total satisfaction responses
377

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Not everyone responded to our satisfaction questions, since 36% of survey participants do not currently use WAGAP services. But those who do mostly agree that WAGAP makes them feel more hopeful and helps them connect with things they need. Many people who do not use WAGAP services were also supportive in their comments and multiple survey participants asked where they can learn about opportunities to Volunteer with WAGAP. Several people commented that they did not know about most WAGAP services, and that there should be more communication or promotion of services in the community.
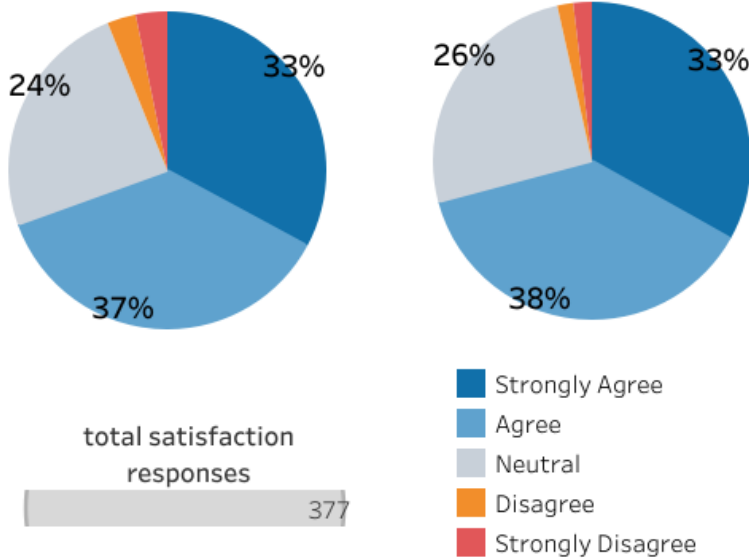
Our family is fortunate in that we have the means to help others. We have both time and money to give. In the 15 years we have lived here, WAGAP has never reached out to us asking for any resources. My husband has volunteered at the Food Bank through things organized by his work and we donate often to Second Hand Rose. We donate to United Way because they ask. And hopefully some of that gets to you. I think improved outreach would help WAGAP.
~ Female, White non Latino survey participant

I strongly believe that your presence in this community is essential and has helped countless amounts of people.
~ Female, Asian American survey participant

Most of the [WAGAP] services listed I didn't even know about. Need to get the word out better. Flyers? Mailings with list of services, etc. ~ Male, Latino survey participant

[It could help] to deliver food to people who are unable to get to the food bank... Or maybe have a small food bank in Carson that is open on days that the food bank isn't open in Stevenson or Bingen to make it easier for people that can't come on Tuesday and Thursday. Thank you for your time and support. ~ Female, White Senior survey participant

Lack of communication (e.g., via Facebook) from the cities of Bingen and White Salmon about important information for the public. There is currently no streamlined way for residents to get updates on anything from contaminated water to city council meetings to programs like WAGAP's that address community needs. This creates a knowledge gap that means programs like WAGAP's aren't well known in the community even though there is a huge need for their services. ~ Female, White non Latino survey participant

Thank you Food Bank you make life better. ~ Female, White non Latino survey participant

Conclusions

Our service area is large and rural, and poverty is higher than the national and state levels. Causes of poverty are broad and vary depending on where you live. Addressing poverty across our two counties requires a diversity of solutions. Fortunately our area has a wealth of assets to draw from. Perhaps most notably in the Social Capital created by partnerships among the many community, faith based and public sector organizations here. Leveraging existing partnerships to strengthen and create new programs and collaborations can have lasting impact on root causes of poverty.

Needs that can be targeted for poverty reduction are summarized in the table below. Healthcare affordability is not singled out because it's a systemic problem needing national solutions. But local partnerships that meet health related needs like food access and care coordination through Community Health Workers will go a long way to help people stay healthy and build self sufficiency. Most of the needs listed are being addressed in the community on some level, but each of them are connected to poverty that continues to exist in our area. To meet these needs and WAGAP's mission to ***strengthen community by inspiring hope and helping people help themselves,*** continued efforts - along with new, creative and collaborative solutions, are needed.

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WAGAP 2020 identified needs summary table:

need	key building blocks
EMPLOYMENT	
1. job creation	livable wages
2. increased childcare options	affordability, availability
3. training and education	STEAM opportunities, access to higher education and specialized training for tech jobs
4. internet access	rural infrastructure, affordability
HOUSING	
5. access to rentals and ownership	affordability, availability
6. utilities and repairs assistance	affordability
7. shelter space	county-wide availability
TRANSPORTATION	
8. expanded mobility options	creative solutions for remote job sites, availability-reliability, affordability
FOOD	
9. access to healthy food	affordability, reduce distance to markets and/or solve transportation barriers, nutrition and food preservation classes
10. food assistance	food bank and food box availability, connecting with the most under-served populations
HEALTHCARE	
11. mental and behavioral healthcare	prevention, stigma reduction, treatment option availability
12. healthcare navigators	availability of trained Community Health Workers
13. partner collaboration	creative solutions to problems related to provider shortages, regional program availability and promotion
EQUITY	
14. relationship building	outreach to underserved groups, trust building (especially among Native American communities), availability of Community Health Workers (especially those who come from the community served)
15. leadership development	support populations in poverty to identify resources and solutions

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Recommendations

Many survey participants did not know about the kinds of services WAGAP offers. Increased communication and outreach to community supporters could attract donations and volunteers who are willing to help but do not know about needs or opportunities to become involved. New communication strategies, coupled with traditional methods like distributing flyers by mail and CHW outreach, to inform people about existing resources could also reach more of the most vulnerable populations.

Needs Assessment findings should be incorporated into WAGAP's Strategic Planning efforts. Depending on organization capacity and planning results, different strategies for decreasing poverty will rise to the surface. Possible steps to consider, with potential to have greatest impact, are outlined below. Many of these were ideas generated during our partner focus group on collaborative strategies.
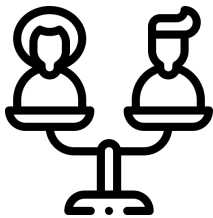
EQUITY - Several actions are recommended to build equity in our community, based on community member survey results, interviews and focus group responses:

- Collect stories about the lives, challenges and successes of struggling community members - use the process to build leadership, to help WAGAP and other agencies understand the needs and to support these populations in developing their own solutions.
- Increase cultural competence within the WAGAP team through trainings, and by hiring more Native American and Latino staff. Especially CHWs.
- Actively engage with Natives Along the Big River Coalition and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission leaders and members to strengthen relationships and identify opportunities to support each other's poverty reduction efforts.
- Designate at least one WAGAP program leader to regularly participate in Gorge Health Equity Collaborative meetings and share learning with staff.
- Continue to develop outreach opportunities through the new Lyle food bank site.
- Include an equity survey question in the next Community Needs Assessment.

The recent food bank site is helpful because people are spreading the word and seeing others going in and then they start to open up. Hygiene products, school supplies and dog food are sometimes handed out too. It could be a good place to do more outreach to the Native American community.

~ Native American Community Health Worker, Lyle resident, interview response
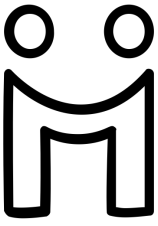
PARTNERSHIPS - When developing new projects that target specific need areas (housing, jobs, etc.), look for relevant resources and partners in the Partner Identified Resources table (Appendix E of this report). A robust network of area partners already exists, but keeping them all updated as to emerging needs and resources is challenging. Developing a sustained communication system for partners to post new resources, announcements, meeting notes, partnership needs and opportunities would strengthen community efforts and help ensure all agencies have access to current resources. To do this,

- Continue involvement in K-Link collaboration, outreach and administrative efforts. Support K-Link in development of a Community Partners Network - offering ideas and resources (when possible) for building and maintaining a communication platform and process.
- Include the Skamania Klickitat Community Network in K-Link or other discussions around development of a sustained partner communication platform.
- Continue to strengthen partnerships and communication with agencies on the Oregon side of the Columbia Gorge.

EMPLOYMENT and EDUCATION - To lower poverty, more middle income jobs need to be developed and residents need training opportunities that make them eligible for such jobs. To do this, consider these actions:

- Build on partnerships with Worksource, the Small Business Development Center, Mid Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD), Skamania County Economic Development Council, and the Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority (PEDA)
- Familiarize with the 10-year Economic Development Plan (by PEDA)[37], and 5-year Economic Development Strategy (by MCEDD)[38] to find areas WAGAP can increase support

Increasing affordable childcare options and after school programs would allow more parents to attend training programs and maintain long term employment. Community Partners at our Collaborative Strategies Focus Group recommended investigating options for a child care coalition - brainstorming with organizations interested in tutoring, youth physical activity and mentoring such as Culture Seed, A-List (White Salmon Valley School District), Flux Therapy, etc.

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[37] https://www.klickitatcounty.org/1028/10-Year-Economic-Development-Strategic-P
[38] https://www.mcedd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CEDS_2020update_full-doc-1.pdf

Supporting STEAM oriented programs, as well as career counseling and college readiness programs can help raise the number of young people eligible for high paying tech jobs after graduation.   Continue to build WAGAP's Community Youth Center programming and availability. Work with Tech employers (especially Insitu), the school districts, existing robotics clubs and Maker Space to expand STEAM offerings.

HOUSING - As housing costs continue to rise, creative solutions will be needed. Strategies to consider: Continue to grow WAGAP's shelter services, utilities and essential needs assistance programs. Continue to support county level *5-Year (2019-2024) Homeless Housing Plan* objectives. Advocate for affordable housing development at the city and county government levels. Investigate alternative housing models such as Clark County's Faith Partners for Housing homeshare program. Strategize with key housing partners to identify opportunities to increase access to affordable housing in our area, including:

- Skamania County Economic Development Commision
- Skamania County Homeless Council
- Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority
- Mid Columbia Housing Authority/Columbia Cascade Housing
- Washington State Housing Finance Commission
- Klickitat County Sheriff's office (currently has funding to partner on housing), and
- Our Father's House Fellowship (who shared that, *'We could use a coordinator to expedite referrals and match clients with housing.'*)

Support Skamania County's Housing Needs Analysis recommendations and the White Salmon Urbanization Study's policy considerations to increase housing options. These studies summarize housing related funding opportunities - many of which would be most accessible through collaborative efforts. They also indicate that advocacy with local government regulators and assistance with community grant applications could help update restrictive local codes and encourage development of mid to low income housing options, including multifamily units, apartments and mobile home sites.[39]

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[39] Skamania County and City of Stevenson Housing Needs Analysis, January 2020; White Salmon Urbanization Study DRAFT, May 2020, Summary of Housing Funding Tools in WA State, page 39

TRANSPORTATION - Reliable and affordable mobility options have potential to impact most other poverty factors. Much effort has gone into transportation planning in our area already, so connecting with Gorge TransLink to learn how to best support their mobility management efforts is recommended. Start by familiarizing with the *2018 Human Services Transportation Plan for Clark, Skamania and Klickitat Counties*[40], and joining TransLink's Transit Strategy Working Group[41]. Consider partnering with the Yakama Nation's Pahto Transit (as recommended in our partner focus group). The Klickitat County Sheriff's office has funding to partner on transportation issues, as shared in our partner survey, and the City of White Salmon shared that people need education on available public transportation. Both of these partners could be approached for collaboration on outreach or other strategies identified in the 2018 Transportation Plan.
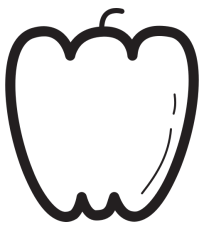
FOOD - The Columbia Gorge Food Security Coalition's 2020 Annual Report[42] recommends 3 priority avenues for relieving food insecurity:

- Expand and improve SNAP and other public assistance
- Support emergency food providers (including food banks), and
- Provide funding for local food procurement (supporting supply chain development to bring locally grown food directly to food banks, schools, etc.)

These will require advocacy with government agencies, and funding. Increased involvement in the Food Security Coalition's leadership working groups, and ongoing communication with the Columbia Gorge Food Bank, would position WAGAP to support advocacy efforts and identify relevant collaborations and funding opportunities.

Other collaborative options to consider include:
- Build a relationship with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and tribal leaders - share knowledge, needs and resources. Approach Nch'i Wana Housing for assistance with relationship building and collaboration on food and clean water distribution.
- Forge a partnership with The Wave NW - share best practices for food distribution, partner on projects when feasible.
- Approach all school districts to investigate options for supporting a shared nutrition supervisor position - seek untapped resources and funding, and possibly apply with the State to become a summer meal site sponsor, or build on Stevenson-Carson districts' 3-squares program. Ensure Goldendale School District is included.

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[40] https://gorgetranslink.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/HSTP-Adopted-20181106.pdf
[41] https://gorgetranslink.com/gorge-transit-strategy/
[42] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IO_vTOmDo3g7o-UCDsMj_spnKRdLGmfH/view

HEALTHCARE - Continuing to strengthen WAGAP's victim services, prevention, shelters and care coordination will help with mental and behavioral health needs as well as access problems. Related actions to consider include:

- Increase the availability of Community Health Workers, especially LatinX, Native American and others from minority groups.

- Work with partner networks to identify new, creative ways to address behavioral and mental health needs, as well as provider shortages.

Increasing drug and alcohol abuse education and treatment options was requested by many Community Member Survey participants. The Klickitat County Sheriff's office has funding for partnering on Substance Use Disorder efforts (as shared in our partner survey). Other shared health partnership opportunities include:

We could provide group therapy support for youth or for survivors of domestic violence but we would need funding or contract with WAGAP.
~ Comprehensive Healthcare representative, survey response

I would like to see a library partnership with mental health providers who come to the library weekly or bi-weekly - with appointment times. This can take stigma out of mental health.
~ Goldendale Library representative, interview response

I would love to develop [an affordable] social-emotional wellness after school program a couple days a week that includes physical activities, art, music, theater, etc.
~ Flux Therapy representative, survey response

Appendices

A. Methodology
B. Survey participant demographics
C. Partner survey questionnaire
D. Community member survey questionnaire
E. Key informant interview questions
F. Partner identified resources table (survey and interview responses)

Appendix A. Methodology

CNA planning and data collection activities were conducted from July-December 2020. All planning sessions, interviews and focus groups were conducted by phone or online zoom gatherings, in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions (except for the WAGAP-Health Department focus group held before restriction mandates). Activities included:

- 1 WAGAP Leader & Klickitat County Public Health Department focus group for Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) input, sponsored by the Columbia Gorge Health Council, 2/20/2020, N=12.

- 2 WAGAP Leader meetings: 1 CNA planning session, N=7; 1 focus group defining community needs, N=10.

- Community Member Surveys, N=626 (for our population of 33,016 this gives a 95% confidence level, with 3.9 margin of error). Paper and online surveys distributed throughout the service area in both Spanish and English, COVID relief recipients were surveyed by phone. Promotion included Facebook, utility mailings, partner distribution, hand delivery at WAGAP points of service and to a Native American owned smoke shop, local fruit packinghouse and local plant nursery - see Appendix D. Community Member Survey Questionnaire.

- Partner surveys, N=40. Online surveys distributed through partner emails - see Appendix C. Partner Survey Questionnaire.

- 1 partner focus group, N=21 (including representatives from the public and private sectors, educational institutions, community and faith based organizations, plus 5 WAGAP team members). Focused on collaborative strategies to address needs.

- 1 Native American leaders focus group, N=4 (2 Native American community leaders, 2 WAGAP staff, including 1 Native American CHW). Focused on best practices for connecting with the Native American community, understanding needs and gathering input.

- 12 key informant interviews - see Appendix E. Key informant interview questions.
  - 2 **Community Health Workers** (Latina Elder, Native American community member)
  - 3 **Educational Institution** staff (Lyle School Counselor, White Salmon Schools Health and Wellness Coordinator and After School Programs Director)
  - 3 **Public Sector** representatives (Bingen-White Salmon Police Department, Skyline Hospital and Goldendale Library)

- 1 **Private Sector** representative (Insitu)
- 2 **Community Based** organizations (Food Security Coalition - Gorge Grown Food Network, Worksource)
- 1 **Faith Based** organization (Father's House, Goldendale)

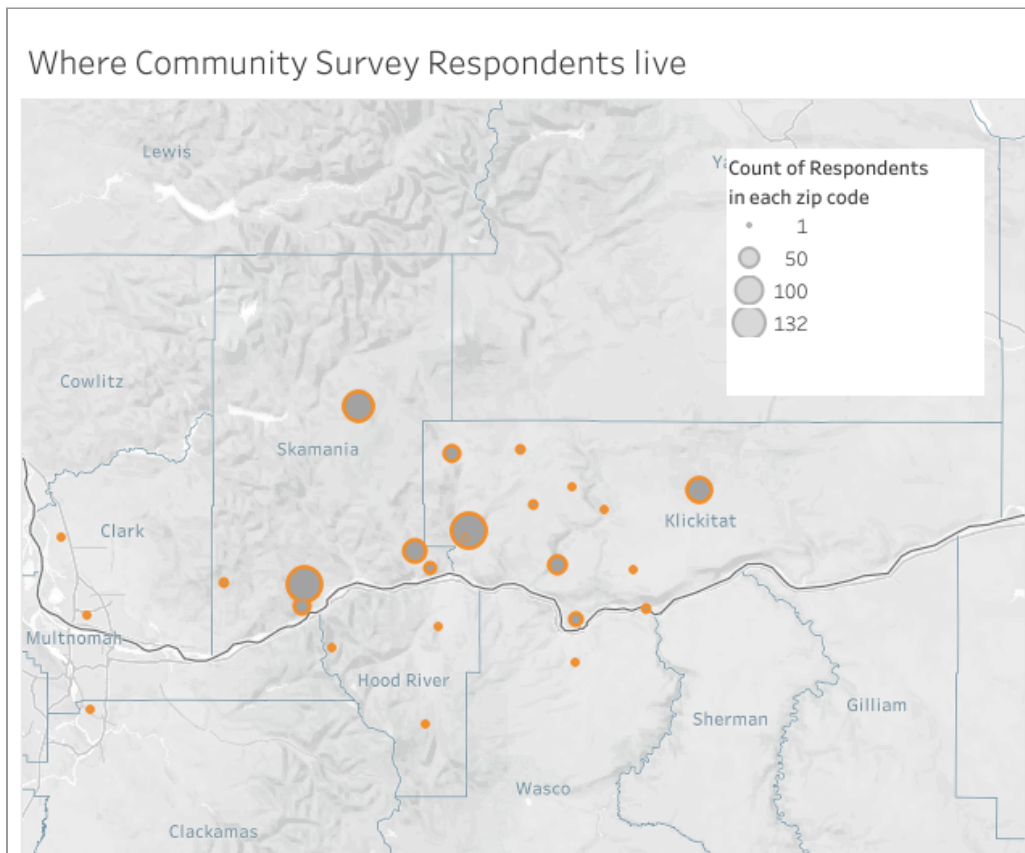Data analysis and interpretation was completed by Colibri Consulting in January 2021. This included:

- Qualitative input compilation from WAGAP 2020 Community Needs Assessment interviews, focus groups and surveys. Connections between assets, needs and potential solutions identified. Qualitative data compared to quantitative results (for identification of similarities and differences between the two).
- Quantitative data review and analysis using the following sources:
  - WAGAP 2020 Community Needs Assessment survey data
  - WAGAP 2020 program data
  - Public and existing local data sources, primary source include:
    - U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018 and 2015-2019
    - U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019
    - Feeding America, 2017 and 2018
    - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Area Health Resource File, 2017
    - USDA Food Access Research Atlas, 2017
    - U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts, 2017-2019
    - Local Employment Dynamics database, 2019
    - WA State Healthy Youth Survey, 2018
    - Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment, 2019
    - Gorge Wide Food Survey, Columbia Gorge CCO Consumer Advisory Council, 2015
- Summary graphics and data visualizations created with Tableau and Excel software, and/or gleaned from the CARES Engagement Network[43], DataUSA[44] or Broadstreet[45] websites

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[43] https://engagementnetwork.org/assessment/chna_report/
[44] https://datausa.io/
[45] https://www.broadstreet.io/

Appendix B. Survey participant demographics

Where Community Survey Respondents live

Count of Respondents
in each zip code
· 1
○ 50
○ 100
○ 132

Of the 626 survey respondents, 16 listed zip codes outside of our service area (1 in Alaska, 1 in Hawaii, 10 in Wasco or Hood River Counties and the remaining 4 in outlying Washi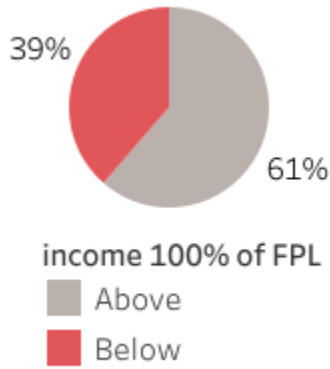ngton or Oregon counti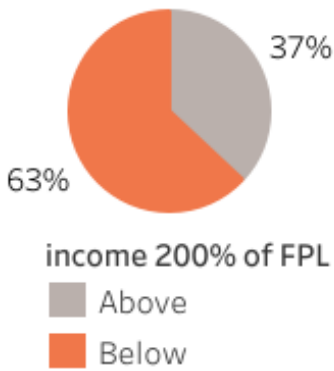es). Their responses remained in the data set for data analysis as they are assumed to receive services here or be temporary residents with some insight around local needs.

More Food Bank recipients took our survey than any other type of program client. This is likely because that program serves more clients than any other program, and because Food Bank staff worked hard to promote the survey to clients when they came in to pick up food boxes. Over ⅓ of those surveyed do not access any WAGAP services.

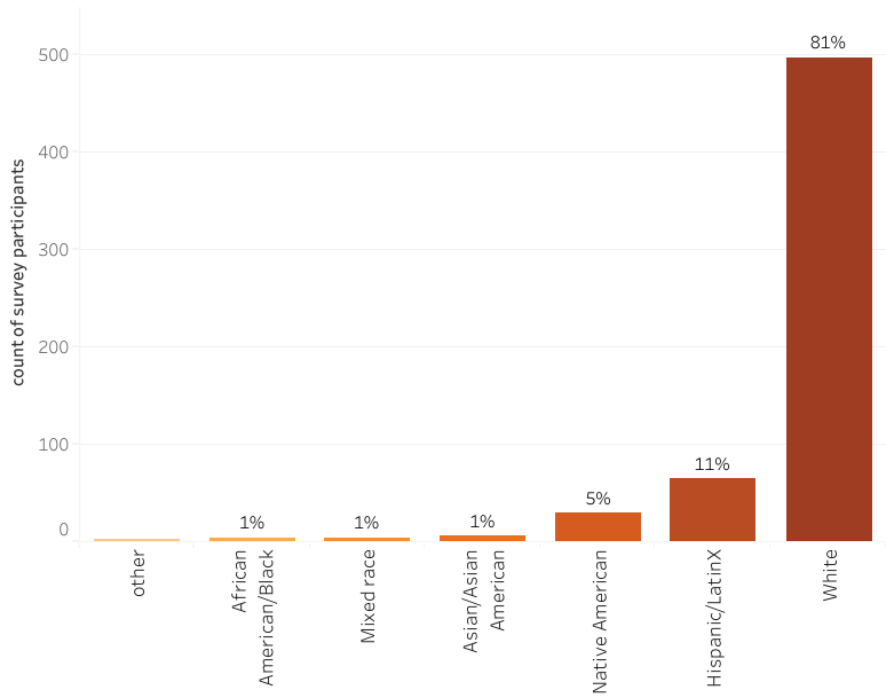## count of services accessed

Our Klickitat	5
Community Youth Center	15
Programs for Peaceful Living	16
Pathways Community Health Connect	19
Housing and Essential Needs (HEN)	22
Emergency services	25
COVID-19 Relief Fund	44
Home Energy Assistance	84
Second Hand Rose thrift store	132
n/a (none)	228
Food Bank	297

by 2020 WAGAP survey participants

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Survey Participants race/ethnicity, poverty level, gender and age representation:

39%

61%

income 100% of FPL
■ Above
■ Below

survey
respondents
in poverty

represented races/ethnicities

count of survey participants

500

400

300

200

100

0

1% | 1% | 1% | 5% | 11% | 81%

other | African American/Black | Mixed race | Asian/Asian American | Native American | Hispanic/LatinX | White

37%

63%

income 200% of FPL
■ Above
■ Below

represented genders

Male 26%

Female 73%

■ Gender non-conforming (1%)

represented age groups

65 or older 20%

18-64 years 80%
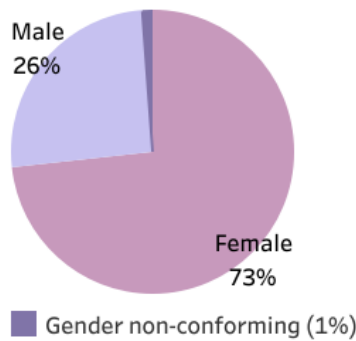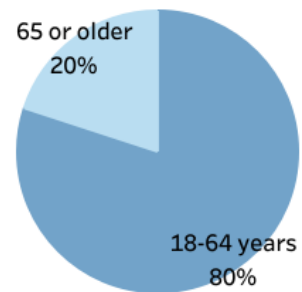
Appendix C. Partner survey questionnaire

Washington Gorge Action Programs (WAGAP) - Community Needs Assessment

MISSION: Strengthening community by inspiring hope and helping people help themselves.

WAGAP is asking our partners how COVID-19 has changed our community, and about existing resources we can use to address emerging needs. We also want to learn more about the causes of local poverty, and how we can improve livelihoods and hope for everyone living here. **YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US!** Our team will post assessment results on our website in early 2021 and will be using them to improve the way we serve our community over the next 3 years.

This survey can be filled out anonymously

You do not need to share your name or any other identifying information if you choose not to.

1. Please share the name of the organization/agency/group you represent: _____

What type of organization/agency/group is it:

____faith based   ____Public sector

____Community based   ____Educational institution

____Private sector   ____other:_____

Which County is your organization is based in:

❏ Klickitat   ❏ Skamania   ❏ Other:_____

2. Has your organization/agency/group ever partnered with WAGAP to provide community services or assistance?

❏ Yes   ❏ No

If yes, list the name or brief description of service(s) or program(s) you partnered on:

_____

3. *Please mark **all WAGAP services** that you or your organization refer people to:*

____Programs for Peaceful Living - violence prevention and general crime victim services

____Emergency Shelter, Permanent Supportive Housing and Rental Assistance

____Pathways Community Health Connect - care coordination

____Home Energy Assistance   ____Housing and Essential Needs (HEN)

____Community Youth Center   ____Food Bank

____Second Hand Rose thrift store   ____COVID-19 Relief Fund

____Our Klickitat - substance abuse prevention   ____none (n/a)

Now, circle ↻ the service you refer to MOST OFTEN.

For the next set of questions, think about the daily lives of people you have worked with - **what aspects of the community seem to give them the most support?** Consider public and social services, built environment (including parks), natural resources, resources that benefit the local economy, civic or volunteer organizations, social groups or clubs, nonprofit agencies, religious and cultural assets, or any other resources:

4. Is housing a challenge in Klickitat and/or Skamania County?

❏-YES, it's a BIG problem! ❏-Yes, somewhat   ❏-No

If you said 'Yes', do you think COVID-19 has made this a bigger problem than it was before?

❏-YES, a lot worse   ❏-Yes, somewhat   ❏-No

List resources or assets in our community that can help people solve housing problems:

_____

5. Is employment a challenge in Klickitat and/or Skamania County?

❑-YES, it's a BIG problem! ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

If you said 'Yes', do you think COVID-19 has made this a bigger problem than it was before?

❑-YES, a lot worse   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

List resources or assets in our community that can help people solve employment challenges:

_____

6. Is food a challenge in Klickitat and/or Skamania County?

❑-YES, it's a BIG problem! ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

If you said 'Yes', do you think COVID-19 has made this a bigger problem than it was before?

❑-YES, a lot worse   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

List resources or assets in our community that can help people solve food or nutrition challenges:

_____

7. Is transportation a challenge in Klickitat and/or Skamania County?

❑-YES, it's a BIG problem! ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

If you said 'Yes', do you think COVID-19 has made this a bigger problem than it was before?

❑-YES, a lot worse   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

List resources or assets in our community that can help people solve transportation challenges:

_____

8. Is healthcare a challenge in Klickitat and/or Skamania County?

❑-YES, it's a BIG problem! ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

If you said 'Yes', do you think COVID-19 has made this a bigger problem than it was before?

❑-YES, a lot worse   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

List resources or assets in our community that can help people solve health or healthcare challenges:

_____

9. Is education a challenge in Klickitat and/or Skamania County?

❑-YES, it's a BIG problem! ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

If you said 'Yes', do you think COVID-19 has made this a bigger problem than it was before?

❑-YES, a lot worse   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

List resources or assets in our community that can help people solve health or healthcare challenges:

_____

10. Please list any other major CHALLENGES or PROBLEMS in our community that were not covered in the questions above (especially those that affect poverty):

11. Are there any other important resources or aspects of the community that support people to live healthy, hopeful lives? (please list them here):

12. If you have an idea about how WAGAP could partner with your organization (or with other groups) to better reduce poverty in our area, or if there is anything else you would like us to know, please explain here:

13. If you would like WAGAP to contact you to discuss partnership ideas or other concerns, please share your contact information.

Appendix D. Community member survey questionnaire

WAGAP is asking people how we can improve wellbeing for everyone living here. **YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT!** Our team will post the results on our website and will use them to improve the way we serve our community. **This survey is anonymous - we will not ask for your name.**

Do you work, live or access services in Klickitat or Skamania County?........❑ Yes   ❑ No
Please enter your zip code: _____, then tell us what you know about the following things:

1. What are you involved in <u>locally</u> that helps you live a happy life or get support when you need it?
_____Faith group or church   _____Extended family
_____Community or civic volunteer group   _____Close friends
_____Sports team or club   _____None
_____Hobby groups (books clubs, art club, etc.)   Other:_____

2. Which of these best describes your housing today? *Mark all that apply:*

_____I have housing and **am NOT worried about losing it**   _____I have housing, **but I AM WORRIED about losing it**

_____I am staying in a shelter, car, tent or on the street   _____Other living arrangement (hotel, etc):_____

3. Is housing a challenge in your community?...........❑-YES, a BIG problem!   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No
If you said 'yes', mark **all the reasons it is a problem** *for <u>you or for people you know</u>:*
_____Cost of rent or house payment   _____Weatherization or repairs (roof, foundation,
_____Cost of utilities   plumbing, etc.) needed
_____Not enough housing available to rent or buy   _____Not enough shelter space (domestic violence
Other:_____   shelters, warming or homeless shelters)

4. Did you or anyone else in your household lose a job as a result of COVID-19?
                                                                              ❑ Yes   ❑ No
5. Do you have access to the internet at home?...............................❑ Yes   ❑ No   ❑ Sometimes
6. Number of people in your household (sharing income & expenses): _____

7. During the past year, what was the <u>total gross income</u> for your household? Your best estimate is fine. Include all household members' income before taxes were taken out.

      ❑ Less than $15,000   ❑ $45,000 to $64,999
      ❑ $15,000 to $29,999   ❑ $65,000 to $99,999
      ❑ $30,000 to $44,999   ❑ $100,000 or more

8. Is employment a challenge in your community?.....❑-YES, a BIG problem!   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No
If you said 'yes', mark **all the reasons it is a problem** *for <u>you or for people you know</u>:*
_____People lack skills or education needed   _____Lack of affordable child care during work hours
_____Wages are too low to cover monthly expenses   _____Lack of legal documents (green card, etc)
_____Good paying jobs with benefits are hard to find   other:_____

9. During the 12 months *BEFORE* COVID-19 lockdowns in March, did you or the people you live with <u>worry that you would run out of food</u> before you were able to get more? ❑-Yes, often   ❑-Sometimes   ❑-No

10. During the months *AFTER* COVID-19 lockdowns, have you or the people you live with <u>worried that you would run out of food</u> before you were able to get more?   ❑-Yes, often   ❑-Sometimes   ❑-No

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11. Is food a challenge in your community?...............❑-YES, a BIG problem!   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

*If you said 'yes', mark **all the reasons it's a problem** for you or for people you know:*

____Lack of transportation to grocery stores or markets

____Not enough alternative food sources available (pantries, food bank, gleaning, etc.)

____Reduced access to free and reduced school meals because of COVID-19 school closures

____Not enough income to purchase food   other:_____

12. Is transportation a challenge in your community? ❑-YES, a BIG problem!   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

*If you said 'yes', mark **all the reasons it's a problem** for you or for people you know:*

____Cost of buying and maintaining a car   ____Limited public transportation

____Cost of gasoline

____Unable to get a driver's license   other:_____

13. Is healthcare a challenge in your community?......❑-YES, a BIG problem!   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

*If you said 'yes', mark **all the reasons it's a problem** for you or for people you know:*

____Unsure where to go or what services are available   ____Not enough alcohol/drug abuse treatment options

____Lack of adequate insurance   ____Not enough mental health treatment options

____Cost of care is not affordable   ____Lack of transportation

____Language barrier (medical info hard to understand)   other:_____

14. Please mark the gender you most identify with: ❑ Female   ❑ Male   ❑ Transgender
                    ❑ Gender non-conforming   ❑ Prefer not to answer   ❑ Other:_____

15. What age group are you in?   ❑ younger than 18   ❑ 18-64   ❑ 65 or older

16. Please select the races or ethnicities you most identify with:
    ❑ African American/Black   ❑ Asian/Asian American   ❑ Hispanic/Latino/LatinX
    ❑ Native American/American Indian   ❑ White   ❑ Other:_____

17. *Please mark **all WAGAP services** you currently use:*

____Programs for Peaceful Living - violence prevention and general crime victim services

____Emergency Shelter, Permanent Supportive Housing and Rental Assistance

____Pathways Community Health Connect - care coordination

____Home Energy Assistance   ____Housing and Essential Needs (HEN)

____Community Youth Center   ____Food Bank

____Second Hand Rose thrift store   ____COVID-19 Relief Fund

____Our Klickitat - substance abuse prevention   ____none (n/a)

If you have participated in **any** WAGAP services please fill out this **Satisfaction Chart**	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	(N/A)
A. WAGAP has helped me learn how or where to get services or other things I need in life						
B. Working with WAGAP has made me feel more hopeful about my community or my life						

18. If there are **other big problems** in your community, or you have an **idea about how WAGAP could help,** or if there is **anything else** you would like us to know, **please explain here** (or on a separate sheet):

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50

Appendix E. Key informant interview questions

1. What are the greatest strengths or assets our community has?
2. What are the biggest needs or challenges in our community today?
3. How has COVID-19 affected the needs?
4. What kind of programs or collaborations could address unmet needs?

For participants needing additional prompts or context, interviews were redirected to walk through issue-specific needs and asset questions from the Partner Survey:

1. Is housing a challenge in Klickitat and/or Skamania County?

❑-YES, it's a BIG problem!   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

List resources or assets in our community that can help people solve housing problems:

2. Is employment a challenge in Klickitat and/or Skamania County?

❑-YES, it's a BIG problem!   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

List resources or assets in our community that can help people solve employment challenges:

3. Is food a challenge in Klickitat and/or Skamania County?

❑-YES, it's a BIG problem!   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

List resources or assets in our community that can help people solve food or nutrition challenges:

4. Is transportation a challenge in Klickitat and/or Skamania County?

❑-YES, it's a BIG problem!   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

List resources or assets in our community that can help people solve transportation challenges:

5. Is healthcare a challenge in Klickitat and/or Skamania County?

❑-YES, it's a BIG problem!   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

List resources or assets in our community that can help people solve health or healthcare challenges:

6.. Is education a challenge in Klickitat and/or Skamania County?

❑-YES, it's a BIG problem!   ❑-Yes, somewhat   ❑-No

List resources or assets in our community that can help people solve health or healthcare challenges:

7. Do you have any ideas about how WAGAP could partner [or strengthen partnership] with your agency or with other partners to improve lives or better reduce poverty in our area?

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Appendix F. Partner identified resources table (survey and interview responses)

Contributing Organization/ group	Housing resources	Employment resources	Food resources	Transportation resources	Healthcare resources	Behavioral Health resources	Education resources
WSVSD			WAGAP food bank, school providing youth meals by bus route - in summer families came to school to get food		McKinney-Vento program (state wide) for homeless families/youth - pays school related fees	Health and Wellness Center at the White Salmon high school is being built for nurse and CHW office. Health dept., Skyline and North Shore will help once it's built (this fall?)	The schools are trusted - WSVEdFoundation got funding thru Swatch to start Wellness Center at the WS high school. Cultureseed academy and mentoring.
Goldendale Library		Goldendale Worksource office, library	Food Bank, WA Extension Office food preservation classes, Parks n Rec community garden, soroptimist club plant exchange, library seed swap, Klickitat county fair	Senior services bus - Mt Adams Transportation	local hospital and clinic, WA state insurance plan, local health dept. Hospital annual health fair	parks n rec, community parks	Head Start, Methodist church pre-school, CGCC in The Dalles, Maryhill Museum, library, Senior Center, 4H, robotics league
Worksource WA	bills housing assistance,money assistance (Good Fruit Foundation, etc)	WA labor and industry	food bank		One Community Health	Yakama Nation behavioral health, WS school psychologist, WA listens line	
WAGAP			Backpacks4Kids - sends food home with Head Start & primary school kids in Klickitat County on Fridays				

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Father's House Fellowship		Father's House can set up an office with a computer - can help people write resumes & do interview coaching. We send folks to a retired business course teacher for 1-on-1 coaching. Worksource in Goldendale.	food bank, Father's House food distribution and food vouchers (local grocery store honors up to $25 worth of food, funded by A Hand Up collaboration between local faith orgs), Health Department nutrition classes	Mt Adams Transportation service, Tribal transportation, our Servant Team can drive people places, pharmacies can get prescriptions mailed in from The Dalles now	Our peer coaching service tries to get physicals for participants, and sometimes helps them pay for some services and signing up for state insurance.	Church group meetings help people build self worth. We offer Celebrate Recovery program for narcotics recovery.	We have space for classes and can help with recruitment
Skyline Hospital	WAGAP, churches	Worksource, Pathways program	Food bank, churches, cooking classes that Skyline did (non-COVID times), school lunch program, WIC (dept. of health)	Medical transport, Mt Adams	DSHS, Skyline Apple Health navigators, KBH Apple Health navigator, OCH helps underinsured, Skyline financial assistance ('Charity Care') & preventive health screenings		Worksource GED program, early intervention, Head Start, WSV Ed Foundation, library
WAGAP	Mid Columbia Housing Authority and WAGAP	Work source and People for People	Food banks and SNAP benefits	public transportation	Apple Health		
Lyle Schools	WAGAP and some Tribal resources.		WAGAP Food Bank,Gleaners		One Community Health, North Shore		
WAGAP	Rental assistance	WorkSource	Food bank	Mt. Adams Transportation	State health insurance		Online services
White Salmon Valley Education Foundation	the money you [WAGAP] give to families for this is very helpful		We have a grocery fund for food or hygiene needs for families in the district. Please reach out to us.		K-Link		The WSV Ed Foundation, the PTO, the schools themselves
Skyline Health			Food bank and farmers markets	Mt Adams Transportation			

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WSV School District, 21st Century Community Learning Center, After School & Summer School Programming		WorkSource, WAGAP	Schools, food banks, churches	Mt. Adams bus system, WAGAP, delivery services, schools			Connectivity and internet challenges for distant learning: Gorge net, phone carriers, library
Columbia Gorge Food Security Coalition	Community Action Programs or Mid Columbia Housing Authority	WorkSource	DHS, food pantries, school meal programs	Mt Adams Transportation Services			CGCC, public school districts
Klickitat Valley Health	Shelter for homeless until more permanent housing is established.	People for People, Pathways	WAGAP, Methodist Church	Mt. Adams, Senior Center	KVH, KVH Family Medicine	Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program, expansion of behavioral health services at KVH	School Districts, OSPI, ESD 112, ESD 105
WAGAP	housing at WAGAP, veteren's services, senior services, rhine village apartments, three mountain village	people for people, dshs, worksource, ss	WAGAP food banks, lyle food bank, church pantries, dshs	mount adams transportation, CAT bus, taxi service, lyft	dshs, co-ops		there are many school supply drives happening currently
City of Stevenson				There is no public transportation from Stevenson to the east. MCEDD is working on improving routes and filling this gap.			Local groups such as the Stevenson-Carson Education Foundation, PTA, School District.
Nch'i Wana Housing Community Development.	Homeless Services, Deposit Assistance, finding a house to rent assistance		Food banks, vouchers				
Food Security Coalition			The Wave NW - recently started food box distribution to				

			Native fishing treaty sites; Underwood Conservation Dist. is investigating options for new farmer education, equipment sharing & supply chain support				
Rotary Club of White Salmon - Bingen	WAGAP Housing programs, and Mid Columbia Housing Authority	WorkSource, WAGAP, CGCC	WAGAP Food Banks, Churches	County Health Dept, & Senior Services, Mt. Adams Transportation System	Skyline Hospital, Northshore Medical, KVH, or go to Hood River to Providence or One Community Health, or to The Dalles to MCMC	Comprehensive Health, Klickitat County, WAGAP (referrals)	Local school districts, Local school district education foundations, Homeschooling circles, Horizon Christian private school, Libraries, Head Start Programs
City of White Salmon			Food Banks			Southwest Comprehensive Health	
Father's House Fellowship	We provide furniture, Identity cards, and peer coaching	prayer, resume assistance, contacts we have for referrals, work experience	Donations	Our volunteers who drive, gas vouchers		Our peer coaching, support groups	
DCYF Goldendale			Food bank, Church's programs	Mt Adams Transport			
Klickitat County Health Department			WAGAP - food banks	senior services, Mt. Adams transport			
Nch'i Wana Housing	Transitional supportive services, rental assistance, section 8		Food banks, community gardens				
Mid-Columbia Children's Council	HUD, WGAP housing services	WorkSource	SNAP, Schools, Food Banks	Mt. Adams Transport	State Funded Health Coverage		Public School systems

Klickitat County Sheriff's Office/Corrections Divsion	Employment, Grants (Beacon). Our office now has funding to partner on housing.	Education/GED programs,		Our office now has funding to partner on transportation.	Goldendale and White Salmon hospitals and clinics have specialists rotate through. Community Health will likely start meeting them in our jail so they have everything they need upon release.	Comprehensive Mental Health is improving its services to Klickitat County & we've been working closely to improve services while folks are incarcerated. KVH has added behavioral health to their system.	
Mid-Columbia Housing Authority	WAGAP, MCHA, CCHC	CGCC, WorkSource WA/OR, private sector businesses	Food banks, Gleaners	MCEDD, Mt. Adams Transportation, CAT, Link	One Community Health, Columbia Gorge Health Council, Pathways programs	Center for Living, Comprehensive Health Care, Skamania County Community Health	Mid Columbia Housing Resource Center - *Your Money, Your Goals* classes; School districts
Skamania County Senior Services	Mid Columbia Housing, WAGAP	DSHS, Work Source	Senior Services, Food Bank, DSHS	Senior Services	DSHS, Community Health	Community Health	School District
WSVSD	Pathways, HUD Housing		Food Bank, WSVEF COVID Grant funding to help with hygiene boxes	Mt. Adams Transportation			Parent Support Groups, Home visits
Insitu			WAGAP and FISH food banks	CAT			
Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church	Land for low income housing		Gleaner group (it's hard to keep it going with just volunteers); churches; community gardens in Stevenson and Bonneville	Transportation to Vancouver is available. Would be nice to extend it to Hemlock & all of the gorge.		Domestic Violence and Criminal Justice Center in Bonneville	
Flux Therapy, LLC	Next Door, Comprehensive Mental Health, WAGAP	Worksource	Food Banks, Next Door, Comprehensive Mental Health, WAGAP	Cat Bus		Comprehensive Mental Health, Flux Therapy WGAP, Next Door, Therapy In The Gorge website	White Salmon School District

NOTE: Developing resources highlighted in GREEN. Spreadsheet available on request.