New York State
Community Needs Assessment
- 2025 -

PathStone receives NYS Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds because we are the statewide community action agency serving migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the agricultural areas of New York State.

With establishment of the Organizational Standards for Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Eligible Entities, PathStone was required to undertake a comprehensive community needs assessment process in 2015; this process formed the basis of the needs analysis that assists PathStone in identifying program priorities. PathStone conducted subsequent Community Needs Assessments in 2018 and 2022 (with a 1-year waiver). We conducted another assessment this year (2025) to fulfill the triennial requirement.

Organizational Standards

PathStone developed and implemented an assessment that meets all the Organizational Standards related to community assessment:

Category 1: Consumer Input and Involvement

Standard 1.2: The organization analyzes information collected directly from low-income individuals as part of the community assessment.

Category 2: Community Engagement

Standard 2.2: The organization utilizes information gathered from key sectors of the community in assessing needs and resources, during the community assessment process or other times. These sectors would include at minimum: community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, private sector, public sector, and educational institutions.

Category 3: Community Assessment

Standard 3.1: The organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3 years.

Standard 3.2: As part of the community assessment, the organization collects and includes current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for their service area(s).

Standard 3.3: The organization collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment.

Standard 3.4: The community assessment includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed.

Standard 3.5: The governing board formally accepts the completed community assessment.

Target Areas:

We focused on 2 key service population areas.

Upstate NY: Genesee, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Wayne
Downstate NY: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster

Quantitative Data:

Using the New York State Community Action Association's Community Needs Assessment Tool, created data packets containing data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity. For each of the above areas, approximately 60 pages of statistics were generated and compiled on population change; age and gender demographics; race demographics; citizenship status; households and families; poverty rates broken out by gender, ethnicity, race, family type, child and senior poverty; veteran demographics; poverty rate change; violent crime; unemployment rates and trends; wages and living wage; commuter travel time and patterns; education including high school graduates and drop outs, and educational attainment; housing including fair market rents and affordability; income and poverty indicators including income levels and trends, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; health care broken out by prenatal care, teen births, HIV/AIDS; and nutrition, including free and reduced lunch program, nutrition from soup kitchens, food pantries and shelters, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. These statistics were distilled down to a 40-page report highlighting key data.

Data Highlight: Vulnerable Communities

U.S. Census Department's Community Resilience Estimates (CRE) are an index of characteristics that measure an area's ability to endure and recover from the health, social, and economic impacts of a disaster, such as a pandemic, hurricane, etc.

CRE Risk Factors

1. Income-to-poverty ratio of less than 130 percent (Household)
2. Single or zero caregiver household – only 1 or 0 individuals aged 18-64
3. Crowded households (more than 0.75 persons per room or households in a high-density census tract)
4. Communication barrier (either linguistically isolated/no one speaks English very well; no one in the household has received a high school diploma)
5. Aged 65 or older
6. No one employed full-time, year-round - not applied if all are aged 65 +
7. Disability, at least one serious constraint to significant life activity
8. No health insurance coverage
9. No vehicle access (Household)
10. Households without broadband internet access (Household)

Area	Total Population	Percent of Residents		
		0 RF	1-2 RF	3+ RF
Dutchess	285,977	42.63%	39.27%	18.10%
Nassau	1,375,237	38.21%	43.77%	18.02%
Orange	399,433	37.54%	42.37%	20.08%
Putnam	97,357	45.64%	39.74%	14.62%
Suffolk	1,508,872	39.74%	43.16%	17.10%
Sullivan	76,884	32.82%	43.78%	23.41%
Ulster	176,399	35.41%	41.73%	22.87%
Genesee	56,811	37.49%	43.19%	19.32%
Monroe	734,504	39.14%	40.07%	20.79%
Niagara	209,048	39.54%	38.93%	21.53%
Orleans	38,490	37.11%	43.11%	19.79%
Wayne	91,034	37.85%	40.84%	21.32%
USA	328,496,586	35.13%	44.24%	20.63%

Qualitative Data:

Information was collected directly from low-income individuals at two focus group meetings, Downstate and Upstate. PathStone community partners represented key sectors of the community including community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, private sector, public sector, and educational institutions. Participants included individuals connected to various PathStone programs; Supportive Housing, Senior Community Service Employment Program/SCSEP and Training & Employment (NFJP, Reentry, etc.).

Our CSBG Program Manager and certified ROMA (Results Oriented Management and Accountability) Implementer, assisted by local Directors, acted as facilitators for each Focus Group meeting. Following a review of the quantitative data, participants engaged in discussion about data applicability to localities; changes of concern in the community, social, economic or other trends; community priorities and PathStone's role, gaps in community programs and services, unserved and underserved groups, and approaches being tried in other communities. The focus groups' expertise on conditions in their communities was impressive and participation by every representative was noted. Discussions in each group contained both similarities and unique considerations.

Additionally, we used an online survey platform called Formaloo to collect input from participants. Using multiple choice and short answer questions in this survey helped us to gather input from attendees, in addition to our discussion.

Quantitative - Qualitative Analyses

Once the qualitative information sessions were completed, PathStone staff analyzed the information and compared it to the quantitative data; the qualitative data including perceptions shared in the Focus group meetings, validated the quantitative data.

Causes of Poverty

Lack of Living Wage Jobs
Lack of Affordable Housing
Low Education Attainment
Inadequate Job Skills
Limited English Proficiency
Geographic Isolation
Lack of Transportation
Lack of Child Care
Structures and Trauma

Conditions of Poverty

Substance Abuse
Mental Illness (Depression)
Hunger
School Drop-Out
Poor / No Credit
Crime & Incarceration
Disease (Diabetes, Hypertension, Pesticide Exposure)
Discrimination & Exploitation
Substandard Housing

Community Needs

Employment Opportunities
Service Coordination
Access to Health Care
Access to Affordable, Safe Housing
Services for Farmworkers, Youth, Seniors, Justice Involved Individuals
Educational and Training Opportunities
Nutrition Assistance
Access to Legal Knowledge / Services
Access to Safe, Affordable Childcare
Access to Transportation
Services for Limited English Proficiency

Priority Needs to Guide Services

Employment Opportunities
Service Coordination
Access to Affordable, Safe Housing
Education & Training Opportunities
Nutrition Assistance
Increased Access to Transportation
Services for Those with Limited English Proficiency

If you would like a copy of the 2025 Community Needs Assessment data, or if you have any questions, please contact tmitsuyasu@pathstone.org.