

2026/2027 Community Needs Assessment and Community Action Plan

Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Department Community Service Bureau



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Introduction

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) has developed the 2026/2027 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and Community Action Plan (CAP) template for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Service Providers network. CSD requests agencies submit a completed CAP, including a CNA, to CSD on or before **June 30, 2025**. Changes from the previous template are detailed below in the “What’s New for 2026/2027?” section. Provide all narrative responses in 12-point Arial font with 1.15 spacing. A completed CAP template should not exceed 65 pages, excluding the appendices.

Purpose

Public Law 105-285 (the CSBG Act) and the California Government Code require that CSD secure a CAP, including a CNA from each agency. Section 676(b)(11) of the CSBG Act directs that receipt of a CAP is a condition to receive funding. Section 12747(a) of the California Government Code requires the CAP to assess poverty-related needs, available resources, feasible goals, and strategies that yield program priorities consistent with standards of effectiveness established for the program. Although CSD may prescribe statewide priorities or strategies that shall be considered and addressed at the local level, each agency is authorized to set its own program priorities in conformance to its determination of local needs. The CAP supported by the CNA is a two-year plan that shows how agencies will deliver CSBG services. CSBG funds are by their nature designed to be flexible. They shall be used to support activities that increase the capacity of low-income families and individuals to become self-sufficient.

Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and Certification

The Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances are found in Section 676(b) of the CSBG Act. These assurances are an integral part of the information included in the CSBG State Plan. A list of the assurances that are applicable to CSBG agencies has been provided in the Federal Programmatic Assurances section of this template. CSBG agencies should review these assurances and confirm that they are in compliance. Signature of the board chair and executive director on the Cover Page certify compliance with the Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances.

State Assurances and Certification

As required by the CSBG Act, states are required to submit a State Plan as a condition to receive funding. Information provided in agencies’ CAPs will be included in the CSBG State Plan. Alongside Organizational Standards, the state will be reporting on [State Accountability Measures](#) in order to ensure accountability and program performance improvement. A list of the applicable State Assurances is provided in this template. CSBG agencies should review these assurances and confirm that they are in compliance. Signature of the board chair and executive director on the Cover Page certify compliance with the State Assurances.

Compliance with CSBG Organizational Standards

As described in the Office of Community Services (OCS) [Information Memorandum \(IM\) #138](#) dated January 26, 2015, CSBG agencies will comply with the Organizational Standards. A list of Organizational Standards that are met by an accepted CAP, including a CNA, are found in the Organizational Standards section of this template. Agencies are encouraged to utilize this list as a resource when reporting on the Organizational Standards annually.

What's New for 2026/2027?

Due Date. The due date for your agency's 2026/2027 CAP is June 30, 2025. However, earlier submission of the CSBG Network's CAPs will allow CSD more time to review and incorporate agency information in the CSBG State Plan and Application. CSD, therefore, requests that agencies submit their CAPs on or before May 31, 2025.

ROMA Certification Requirement. CSD requires that agencies have the capacity to provide their own ROMA, or comparable system, certification for your agency's 2026/2027 CAP. Certification can be provided by agency staff who have the required training or in partnership with a consultant or another agency.

Federal CSBG Programmatic and State Assurances Certification. In previous templates, the federal and state assurances were certified by signature on the Cover Page and by checking the box(es) in both federal and state assurances sections. In the 2026/2027 template, CSD has clarified the language above the signature block on the Cover Page and done away with the check boxes. Board chairs and executive directors will certify compliance with the assurances by signature only. However, the Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and the State Assurances language remain part of the 2026/2027 template.

Other Modifications. The title page of the template has been modified to include your agency's name and logo. Please use this space to brand your agency's CAP accordingly. CSD has also added references to the phases of the ROMA Cycle i.e. assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation throughout the 2026/2027 template. Additionally, there are a few new questions, minor changes to old questions, and a reordering of some questions.

Checklist

- ☒ Cover Page
- ☒ Public Hearing Report

Part I: Community Needs Assessment Summary

- ☒ Narrative
- ☒ Results

Part II: Community Action Plan

- ☒ Vision and Mission Statements
- ☒ Causes and Conditions of Poverty
- ☒ Tripartite Board of Directors
- ☒ Service Delivery System
- ☒ Linkages and Funding Coordination
- ☒ Monitoring
- ☒ ROMA Application
- ☒ Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances
- ☒ State Assurances
- ☒ Organizational Standards

Part III: Appendices

- ☒ Notice of Public Hearing
- ☐ Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response
- ☒ Community Needs Assessment

Cover Page

Agency Name:	Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Department Community Services Bureau
Name of CAP Contact:	Christina Castle-Barber
Title:	Division Manager
Phone:	925-608-8819
Email:	creich@ehsd.cccounty.us

Date Most Recent CNA was Completed: (Organizational Standard 3.1)	January 27, 2025
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Board and Agency Certification

The undersigned hereby certifies that this agency will comply with the [Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances \(CSBG Act Section 676\(b\)\)](#) and [California State Assurances \(Government Code Sections 12747\(a\), 12760, and 12768\)](#) for services and programs provided under the 2026/2027 Community Needs Assessment and Community Action Plan. The undersigned governing body accepts the completed Community Needs Assessment. (Organizational Standard 3.5)

Name:

Name:

Title:	Executive Director	Title:	Board Chair
Date:		Date:	

ROMA Certification

The undersigned hereby certifies that this agency's Community Action Plan and strategic plan document the continuous use of the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) system or comparable system (assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation). (CSBG Act 676(b)(12), Organizational Standard 4.3)

Name:

ROMA Title:	
Date:	

CSD Use Only

Dates CAP		Accepted By
Received	Accepted	

Public Hearing(s)

California Government Code Section 12747(b)-(d)

State Statute Requirements

As required by California Government Code Section 12747(b)-(d), agencies are required to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the draft CAP. Testimony presented by low-income individuals and families during the public hearing shall be identified in the final CAP.

Guidelines

Notice of Public Hearing

1. Notice of the public hearing should be published at least 10 calendar days prior to the public hearing.
2. The notice may be published on the agency's website, social media channels, and/or in newspaper(s) of local distribution.
3. The notice should include information about the draft CAP; where members of the community may review, or how they may receive a copy of, the draft CAP; the dates of the comment period; where written comments may be sent; date, time, and location of the public hearing; and the agency contact information.
4. The comment period should be open for at least 10 calendar days prior to the public hearing. Agencies may opt to extend the comment period for a selected number of days after the hearing.
5. The draft CAP should be made available for public review and inspection approximately 30 days prior to the public hearing. The draft CAP may be posted on the agency's website, social media channels, and distributed electronically or in paper format.
6. Attach a copy of the Notice(s) of Public Hearing in Part III: Appendices as Appendix A.

Public Hearing

1. Agencies must conduct at least one public hearing on the draft CAP.
2. Public hearing(s) must be held in the designated CSBG service area(s).
3. Low-income testimony presented at the hearing or received during the comment period should be memorialized verbatim in the Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response document and appended to the final CAP as Appendix B in Part III: Appendices.
4. The Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response document should include the name of low-income individual, his/her testimony, an indication of whether or not the need was addressed in the draft CAP, and the agency's response to the testimony if the concern was not addressed in the draft CAP.

Additional Guidance

For the purposes of fulfilling the public hearing requirement on the draft CAP, agencies may conduct the public hearing in-person, remotely, or using a hybrid model based on community need at the time of the hearing.

Public Hearing Report

Date(s) the Notice(s) of Public Hearing(s) was/were published	5/9/2025
Date Public Comment Period opened	5/9/2025
Date Public Comment Period closed	5/28/2025
Date(s) of Public Hearing(s)	5/28/2025
Location(s) of Public Hearing(s)	ZOOM
Where was the Notice of Public Hearing published? (agency website, newspaper, social media channels)	Agency Website; social media; email blast
Number of attendees at the Public Hearing(s)	24

Part I: Community Needs Assessment Summary

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Section 12747(a)

Helpful Resources

A community needs assessment provides a comprehensive “picture” of the needs in your service area(s). Resources are available to guide agencies through this process.

- CSD-lead training – “Community Needs Assessment: Common Pitfalls and Best Practices” on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 1:00 pm. [Registration is required](#). The training will be recorded and posted on the Local Agencies Portal after the event.
- Examples of CNAs, timelines, and other resources are on the [Local Agencies Portal](#).
- [Community Action Guide to Comprehensive Community Needs Assessments](#) published by the National Association for State Community Service Programs (NASCS).
- [Community Needs Assessment Tool](#) designed by the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP).
- National and state quantitative data sets. See links below.

Sample Data Sets		
U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Data	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Economic Data	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Housing Data & Report
HUD Exchange PIT and HIC Data Since 2007	National Low-Income Housing Coalition Housing Needs by State	National Center for Education Statistics IPEDS
California Department of Education School Data via DataQuest	California Employment Development Department UI Data by County	California Department of Public Health Various Data Sets
California Department of Finance Demographics	California Attorney General Open Justice	California Health and Human Services Data Portal
CSD Census Tableau Data by County		Population Reference Bureau KidsData
Data USA National Public Data	National Equity Atlas Racial and Economic Data	Census Reporter Census Data

Sample Data Sets		
Urban Institute SNAP Benefit Gap	Race Counts California Racial Disparity Data	Rent Data Fair Market Rent by ZIP
UC Davis Center for Poverty & Inequality Poverty Statistics	University of Washington Center for Women's Welfare California Self-Sufficiency Standard	University of Wisconsin Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator	Nonprofit Leadership Center Volunteer Time Calculator	Economic Policy Institute Family Budget Calculator

Narrative

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(9)

Organizational Standards 2.2, 3.3

ROMA – Assessment

Based on your agency's most recent CNA, please respond to the questions below.

1. Describe the geographic location(s) that your agency is funded to serve with CSBG. If applicable, include a description of the various pockets, high-need areas, or neighborhoods of poverty that are being served by your agency.

CSB is funded to serve the entire county of Contra Costa. The greatest need is in East County (Bay Point, Pittsburg, and Antioch), followed by West County (Rodeo, San Pablo, North Richmond and Richmond), and then Central County (Concord). South Contra Costa County presents the area of least need, with only small pockets of poverty existing in the City of San Ramon.

2. Indicate from which sources your agency collected and analyzed quantitative data for its most recent CNA. (Check all that apply.) (Organizational Standard 3.3)

Federal Government/National Data Sets

- ☒ Census Bureau
- ☒ Bureau of Labor Statistics
- ☒ Department of Housing & Urban Development
- ☒ Department of Health & Human Services
- ☒ National Low-Income Housing Coalition
- ☒ National Equity Atlas
- ☒ National Center for Education Statistics
- ☒ Academic data resources
- ☒ Other online data resources
- ☒ Other

Local Data Sets

- ☒ Local crime statistics
- ☒ High school graduation rate
- ☒ School district school readiness
- ☒ Local employers
- ☒ Local labor market
- ☒ Childcare providers
- ☒ Public benefits usage
- ☒ County Public Health Department
- ☒ Other

California State Data Sets

- ☒ Employment Development Department
- ☒ Department of Education
- ☒ Department of Public Health
- ☒ Attorney General
- ☒ Department of Finance
- ☒ Other

Surveys

- ☒ Clients
- ☒ Partners and other service providers
- ☒ General public
- ☒ Staff
- ☒ Board members
- ☒ Private sector
- ☒ Public sector
- ☒ Educational Institutions
- ☐ Other

Agency Data Sets

- ☒ Client demographics
- ☒ Service data
- ☒ CSBG Annual Report
- ☒ Client satisfaction data
- ☒ Other

3. Indicate the approaches your agency took to gather qualitative data for its most recent CNA.
(Check all that apply.) (Organizational Standard 3.3)

Surveys

- ☒ Clients
- ☐ Partners and other service providers
- ☒ General public
- ☒ Staff
- ☒ Board members
- ☒ Private sector
- ☒ Public sector
- ☐ Educational institutions

Interviews

- ☐ Local leaders
- ☐ Elected officials
- ☒ Partner organizations' leadership
- ☒ Board members
- ☒ New and potential partners
- ☒ Clients

Focus Groups

- ☐ Local leaders
- ☐ Elected officials
- ☒ Partner organizations' leadership
- ☒ Board members
- ☐ New and potential partners
- ☒ Clients
- ☒ Staff

☒ **Community Forums**☐ **Asset Mapping**☐ **Other**

4. Confirm that your agency collected and analyzed information from each of the five community sectors below as part of the assessment of needs and resources in your service area(s). Your agency must demonstrate that all sectors were included in the needs assessment by checking each box below; a response for each sector is required. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(9), Organizational Standard 2.2)

Community Sectors

- ☒ Community-based organizations
- ☒ Faith-based organizations
- ☒ Private sector (local utility companies, charitable organizations, local food banks)
- ☒ Public sector (social services departments, state agencies)
- ☒ Educational institutions (local school districts, colleges)

Results

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Section 12747(a)

Organizational Standards 4.2

State Plan Summary and Section 14.1a

ROMA – Planning

Based on your agency's most recent CNA, please complete Table 1: Needs Table and Table 2: Priority Ranking Table.

Table 1: Needs Table					
Needs Identified	Level (C/F)	Agency Mission (Y/N)	Currently Addressing (Y/N)	If not currently addressing, why?	Agency Priority (Y/N)
Individuals lack affordable housing and many are unhoused.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Individuals lack access to affordable, healthy, and nutritious foods.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Individuals lack jobs that earn a living wage.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Individuals lack access to mental health services.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
				Choose an item.	

Needs Identified: Enter each need identified in your agency's most recent CNA. Ideally, agencies should use ROMA needs statement language in Table 1. ROMA needs statements are complete sentences that identify the need. For example, "Individuals lack living wage jobs" or "Families lack access to affordable housing" are needs statements. Whereas "Employment" or "Housing" are not. Add row(s) if additional space is needed.

Level (C/F): Identify whether the need is a community level (C) or a family level (F) need. If the need is a community level need, the need impacts the geographical region directly. If the need is a family level need, it will impact individuals/families directly.

Agency Mission (Y/N): Indicate if the identified need aligns with your agency's mission.

Currently Addressing (Y/N): Indicate if your agency is addressing the identified need.

If not currently addressing, why?: If your agency is not addressing the identified need, please select a response from the dropdown menu.

Agency Priority: Indicate if the identified need is an agency priority.

Table 2: Priority Ranking Table

	Agency Priorities	Description of programs, services, activities	Indicator(s) or Service(s) Category
1.	Housing/Homelessness	200 residents will receive emergency shelter in 2024 and 2025. 150 residents will receive affordable housing in 2024 and 2025.	SRV 4m, FNPI 4a, FNPI 4b
2.	Food Security	20,000 healthy meals will be served, and 12,000 food boxes will be distributed each year in 2024 and 2025	SRV 5jj
3.	Living Wage Jobs	250 residents will receive job training leading to living wage jobs in 2024 and 2025.	FNPI 1 a, FNPI 1b, FNPI 1c, FNPI 1d
4.	Mental Health Services	350 individuals will receive Mental Health Services in 2024 and 2025	SRV 5u, SRV 5v
5.			

Agency Priorities: Rank the needs identified as a priority in Table 1: Needs Table according to your agency's planned priorities. Ideally, agencies should use ROMA needs statement language. Insert row(s) if additional space is needed.

Description of programs, services, activities: Briefly describe the program, services, or activities that your agency will provide to address the need. Including the number of clients who are expected to achieve the indicator in a specified timeframe.

Indicator/Service Category: List the indicator(s) (CNPI, FNPI) or service(s) (SRV) that will be reported on in Modules 3 and 4 of the CSBG Annual Report.

Part II: Community Action Plan

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Sections 12745(e), 12747(a)

California Code of Regulations Sections 100651 and 100655

Vision and Mission Statements

ROMA – Planning

1. Provide your agency's Vision Statement.

Community Action Partnership of Contra Costa County envisions a vibrant, hope-filled community where all people are valued for who they are and are equipped with resources to overcome poverty.

2. Provide your agency's Mission Statement.

Community Action Partnership of Contra Costa County invests in low-income individuals and households by addressing the root causes of poverty through funding, partnerships, and community-driven solutions to create lasting change for a stronger, more resilient community.

Causes and Conditions of Poverty

Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2, 3.2, 3.4

ROMA – Planning

1. Describe the key findings of your analysis of information collected directly from low-income individuals to better understand their needs. (Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2)

The Economic Opportunity Council held four public hearings/listening sessions prior to completion of the Community Action Plan and after release of the Community Needs Assessment. Hearings were held at Greater Richmond Interfaith Project, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County, the Head Start Policy Council, and St. Vincent de Paul, ensuring that the feedback was county-wide. The following four questions were asked at each hearing:

- What are the most pressing issues facing our community today?
- What are the biggest barriers preventing people from accessing essential services?
- What positive changes would you like to see happen in our community?
- How can we best work together to address these concerns?

The testimony was very compelling and highly emotional for those in attendance. Emerging as the top issue was the lack of affordable housing and homelessness. Second, was food insecurity because of the high cost of food and areas of the communities where food deserts exist. Third, there exists a lack of jobs that pay a living wage, with many participants having to work multiple jobs and still cannot make ends meet. Finally, all listening session participants shared the need for mental health services to help cope with the everyday stressors of life leading to poor quality of life, lack of motivation, and substance abuse. Encompassing all these issues and others like the need for laundry and shower services, is the pervasive issue of access to services for a variety of reasons such as lack of transportation, lack of knowledge of where to find resources, lack of assistance in applying for services.

2. Describe your agency's assessment findings specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for your service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.2)

8.25% of the population for whom poverty status is determined in Contra Costa County, CA (95k out of 1.15M people) live below the poverty line, a number that is lower than the national average of 12.4%. In terms of age, 5.3% of those in poverty are under 5, 21.7% are people under 18 years of age, and 17.7% are people 65 years and older. Females represent 50.9 percent of the population living in poverty, with the remaining 49.1 percent being male. In terms of race/ethnicity of people living in poverty, 62.4% are white alone, 9.3% are black alone, 1.1% are American Indian/Alaskan Native alone, 20.7% are Asian alone, .6% are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, and 5.9% are two or more races. In terms of Hispanic Origin, 27.8% are Hispanic

or Latino, and 38.7 are Non-Hispanic or Latino.

3. “Causes of poverty” are the negative factors that create or foster barriers to self-sufficiency and/or reduce access to resources in communities in which low-income individuals live. After review and analysis of your needs assessment data, describe the causes of poverty in your agency’s service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.4)

The Economic Opportunity Council concludes that the main factors of poverty in Contra Costa County are as follows. 1. Lack of affordable housing, shelters, and rental assistance; 2. Food insecurity; 3. Underemployment and living wage jobs; and 4. Lack of Mental Health Services.

These priority areas have increased in scale and intensity resulting in difficulties accessing services, negative stereotyping, fragmentation of care and loss of COVID19 safety-net protections and supports that expired in early 2023.

The EOC also recognizes the organizational disruption within the county and among agency partners who are working to rebuild capacity and service delivery systems in the aftermath of the pandemic, which persists in 2025.

Exogenous factors such as supply chain issues, lack of broadband infrastructure, the unpredictable, exponential, yet consistent rise in the cost of fuel, housing, utilities, and other basic necessities make it difficult for low-income people to make gains toward self-sufficiency. The goal posts keep changing.

In the next two years, we will ensure that CSBG funded services address these contextual issues that were consistent themes of the public hearings/listening sessions. These are highlighted in the 2026-27 Community Action Plan and will be emphasized in the RFP for CSBG funding in the next two-year period:

- Accessing services so that agencies demonstrate efforts to ensure clients have fair and consistent connections to services.
- Assisting in reducing/eliminating barriers to service so that clients know that someone will be there at the other end of the line to help address their pressing concerns.
- Integrating services so that individuals are served holistically.

4. “Conditions of poverty” are the negative environmental, safety, health and/or economic conditions that may reduce investment or growth in communities where low-income individuals live. After review and analysis of your needs assessment data, describe the conditions of poverty in your agency’s service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.4)

Backed up by the data, we have selected these four priority areas as the main causes of poverty:

Lack of Affordable Housing, Shelters, and Rental Assistance:

- Since 2021, monthly owner-occupied costs rose 18% to \$2,675, with 82,933 (30%) unaffordable homes. Monthly rental costs also rose 20% to \$2,322, with 69,491

(52%) unaffordable rentals. Median monthly rents in 2025 for a 2-bedroom unit rose 18% to \$2,682.

- In 2023, 14,002 people in 9,632 households accessed homeless-related services from CoC providers, children make up 24% of those served, and homelessness (2,843) increased 25% since 2020. In 2024, students with unstable housing rose 28% or 729 students to 3,381 since 2018.
- Contra Costa's Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, conducted by service agencies, community partners, and volunteers each January, provides a one-day snapshot of the conditions of individuals sleeping in emergency shelters or transitional housing and in cars, abandoned properties, or other places not meant for human habitation. According to this snapshot, a total of 2,843 individuals in the county were identified as currently homeless in 2024, a 24.9% increase of 566 people since 2020.
- Of the 2,843 currently homeless, only 31.1% (884) live in shelters, a 25.0% increase of 177 individuals since 2020. About 5% are families with children, 7% are transitioning age youth (18–24-year-olds) and 7% are minors under age 18. About 83% of the homeless families served report that they have at least one family member with a disabling condition (mental or physical health issue or chronic health condition), 17% report they are fleeing domestic violence, and 59% report a substance use disorder. About 15% of adults report having been in the foster care system, and 45% of all adults served have spent at least one night incarcerated in the past year. Since 2023, East County communities, including Antioch, Oakley, and Pittsburg, have seen a sizable 31% increase in unsheltered individuals. In contrast, West County communities, including Richmond, Hercules, and San Pablo, have seen a 24% decrease in unsheltered individuals since 2023.

Food Insecurity:

- During pregnancy, 21% of women with births in the county had inadequate weight gain, 44% had excessive weight gain, 12% utilized CalFresh, 20% experienced food insecurity, and 7% of county births were low birthweight. About 36% of low income 0–5-year-olds in the county had a recent dental visit in 2023, compared to 31% in the prior year and 41% in California. About 36% of 7th graders, 38% of 9th graders, and 43% of 11th graders in the county had not eaten breakfast in the morning surveyed, with all 3 proportions up significantly since 2019.
- Another indicator of poor nutrition that contributes to multiple health risks such as obesity, dental decay, type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure is the consumption of fast food which tends to be very high in fat and sugar. In 2016 the CDC reported that 36.6% of U.S. adults consume fast food on any given day, 91% of surveyed parents said they had purchased a fast-food meal for their child in the prior week, and the frequency of fast-food consumption is not related to family income. Alarming, the percentage of Contra Costa County children aged

2-11 who ate fast food more than once a week increased from 11.4% in 2014 to 33.2% in 2016. Meanwhile, the percentage of 2–11-year-olds in the county who ate at least five servings of fruits or vegetables each day also fell from 39.0% in 2016 to 21.4% in 2018.

Underemployment:

- At \$110,108, median income for California families rose 23% since 2020, while family income in the county rose 22% to \$146,002. Of householders with 0–5-year-olds, 65% in the state and 68% (50,221) in the county live in families in which all parents work. The 2024 Self-Sufficiency Standard for a Contra Costa family with one adult, an infant and a preschool age child rose 17% since 2021, and at \$161,195, now represents a full-time hourly wage of \$76.
- In 2023, 65% (608,587) of Contra Costa residents participate in the civilian labor force, up 2% or 12,108 since 2020. EDD data indicates the county's civilian workforce (547,100) grew 1%, adding 4,100 jobs since 2022. About 27,000 residents are unemployed, up 18% or 4,100 jobless. Unemployment in the county (4.9%) continues lower than in the state (5.4%) but both edged higher since January 2022.
- In 2023, 81% of county workers commute, down 9% or 44,633 since 2020. The average commute time also fell to 36 minutes, and 46% (203,877) of commuters are female, down 10% or 22,067 since 2020. About 68% of married and 70% of unmarried women with recent births work, and 69% (34,466) of women with 0–5-year-olds work in 2023, up 1%. In 2023, 50% (228,814) of Contra Costa males work full time, up 2%, and 35% (166,279) of females work full time, up 3%.
- In Contra Costa, 8% (95,048) of individuals, 11% (8,024) of children less than 6, 6% (16,660) of families, and 8% of families with children live below the FPL. Compared to 8% of all residents, 6% of naturalized citizens and 14% of non-citizens live in poverty. About 33% (2,222) of married-couples below the FPL have 0–4-year-olds, up 27% since 2020, 36% (2,763) of single female-headed families in poverty have 0–4-year-olds, down 7%, and 20% (446) of single male-headed families in poverty have 0–4-year-olds, down 21%. About 25,484 children of all ages live below the FPL, up 197 children since 2020.

Mental Health Services:

- In a 2024 Contra Costa Health - Health, Housing and Homeless Services (H3) report, "The Opportunity to Change: A Community Needs Assessment for Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in Contra Costa County, CA," health problems were widely reported among youth (age 0-17) and young adults (age 18 to 24) who experienced homelessness. Of those who participated in homelessness programs in the county, about 50% reported some disabling condition, 39% had a mental health challenge, 15% struggled with substance abuse, 14% lived with a chronic health condition, and 9% had some physical disability. The unaddressed

health challenges among this population lead not only to poor health outcomes and health disparities, but likely contribute to their inability to maintain adequate, stable housing and live independently.

- Suicide is the third leading cause of death every year among Contra Costa County residents ages 15 – 34. In 2017, 107 Contra Costa residents died by suicide; so far in 2023, there have been 339 suicides. Although rates of depression are lower in Blacks (24.6%) and Hispanics (19.6%) than in Whites (34.7%), depression in Blacks and Hispanics is likely to be more disabling and persistent. In 2018, Asian Americans were 60% less likely and Hispanic Americans 50% less likely to have received mental health treatment than non-Hispanic Whites. Psychiatric and behavioral problems among BIPOC youth often result in school punishment or incarceration, but rarely mental health care.

5. Describe your agency's data and findings obtained through the collecting, analyzing, and reporting of customer satisfaction data.

The Community Assessment process involves a highly collaborative assimilation of input from and engagement with numerous sources, stakeholders, community members and County staff. CSB Senior Management works with program managers and active parents to revise or refine the process, develop and implement surveys to identify emerging needs and issues, and compile and maintain demographic and referral information about CSB enrollment. The Head Start Policy Council and EOC participate in the assessment process throughout the year providing input through regular meetings, reviewing planning data in the context of shared governance and engaging in other outreach and dialog opportunities. Each March, the EOC and Head Start Policy Council receives a full presentation of the Community Assessment and exercises its mandate to evaluate, discuss and pose questions about its findings. Then in May of each year when a CAP is due, the EOC approves the current Community Assessment as an attachment to the CAP. A wide variety of data techniques and sources are used to conduct Community Assessment. Federal and state agencies, such as the U.S. Census and the Departments of Finance, Education, and Employment Development, provide reliable and regularly updated estimates of residents and conditions that may be compared over time. Internal data sources include parent and family partnership data, parent planning sessions and self-assessment surveys. Program Information Reports (PIR) and data compiled by program managers throughout the year provide a profile of the demographics and needs of Head Start families and children. Local committees, commissions and community-based entities serving low income and at-risk children and families, such as First 5 Contra Costa, the United Way, CalWORKs, the County Health Department, Contra Costa County Local Planning Council for Child Care, and the County Office of Education, also maintain on-the-ground utilization data. Community Care Licensing reports provide information about the demand for and utilization of childcare, as well as the number and location of licensed providers and childcare slots available. In collaboration with McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons, the assessment process also helps identify the number and location of age-eligible children experiencing homelessness. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the Economic Opportunity Council conducts four public hearings/listening sessions throughout the community to hear directly

from the low-income community. We incentivize community participation through raffle prizes, giveaways, and food.

Through this compilation of community knowledge, the assessment process helps identify and communicate the emerging needs and interests of community members. It helps determine the population of eligible children and where their families live, and it describes eligible children and families by age, race and ethnicity, primary language, income, family size, social service needs, educational attainment, employment status, work and job training needs, health factors, nutritional needs, special educational needs, foster care status and housing needs. The assessment process also helps program planners recognize and integrate other community strengths and resources.

Tripartite Board of Directors

CSBG Act Sections 676B(a) and (b), 676(b)(10)

Organizational Standards 1.1. 3.5

ROMA – Evaluation

1. Describe your agency's procedures under which a low-income individual, community organization, religious organization, or representative of low-income individuals that considers its organization or low-income individuals to be inadequately represented on your agency's board to petition for adequate representation. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(10), Organizational Standard 1.1)

Contra Costa is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors elected to represent residents of our County. County government also includes a variety of citizen commissions, committees and other entities formed to advise the Board of Supervisors and County staff on issues and policy. County committees are created because of State and Federal legislation, agreements with public or private agencies, and local needs. They serve as links to our community, expanding the dialogue between the public and the County government, and enhancing the quality of life for our residents.

The County's Maddy Book lists all advisory bodies and commissions, their seats and qualifications, and scheduled vacancies. A member of the public may apply online, by email, or mail.

The county's CSBG tripartite board, called the Economic Opportunity Council (EOC), is an advisory body to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors (BOS). If any of the entities listed in CSBG Act Section 676(b)(10) wish to petition the board for adequate representation, they would address the Board of Supervisors via public comment at any Board of Supervisors meeting in adherence to the Contra Costa County Better Government Ordinance. In addition, any of these parties can also address the EOC with their petition for adequate representation for action by the Board of Supervisors.

2. Describe your process for communicating with and receiving formal approval from your agency board of the Community Needs Assessment (Organizational Standard 3.5).

CSB's Community Needs Assessment is communicated to the EOC in February of each year that a Community Action Plan is due via email. A presentation on key findings of the Community Assessment is included on the EOC agenda in March of that year. In May, the EOC approves the Community Action Plan in its entirety, including the Community Assessment which is part of the appendices.

Service Delivery System

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(A)

State Plan 14.3a

ROMA - Implementation

1. Describe your agency's service delivery system. Include a description of your client intake process or system and specify whether services are delivered via direct services or subcontractors, or a combination of both. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(A), State Plan 14.3a)

Contra Costa County has a no wrong door policy meaning that clients can walk into any of our offices throughout the county and be served or provided a warm handoff to a community partner or county department. For CSB specifically, we allow walk-ins, and we provide scheduled appointments utilizing our confidential interview rooms. Our childcare units, both directly operated childcare and alternative payment programs, can be accessed for intake electronically as well. We have a Centralized Eligibility Unit that enters all data into our CLOUDs database, which ranks applicants via the state and federally mandated selection criteria and places them on the waitlist as ranked. Our childcare services are delivered directly by the county and through several high-quality subcontractors. Our CSBG services are also provided directly, in the form of a Clerical On-the-Job Training program, and by 11 subcontractors. Our subcontractors each have their own service delivery system, which is a subject to annual monitoring.

2. Describe how the poverty data related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity referenced in Part II: Causes and Conditions of Poverty, Question 2 will inform your service delivery and strategies in the coming two years?

The county is committed to meeting our clients where they are in the community, visiting them on the front lines where they access their services, and creating a one-stop-shop service delivery system wherever possible. Our RFP for the 2026-2027 contracts will include this demographic data related to poverty and will require applicants to identify how they will ensure that their services address these various attributes of the population.

Linkages and Funding Coordination

CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(1)(B) and (C); 676(b)(3)(B), (C) and (D); 676(b)(4), (5), (6), and (9)

California Government Code Sections 12747(a), 12760

Organizational Standards 2.1

State Plan 9.3b, 9.4b, 9.5, 9.7, 14.1b, 14.1c, 14.3d, 14.4

1. Describe how your agency coordinates funding with other providers in your service area. If there is a formalized coalition of social service providers in your service area, list the coalition(s) by name and methods used to coordinate services/funding. (CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(1)(C), 676(b)(9); Organizational Standard 2.1; State Plan 14.1c)

The EOC and CSB coordinate funding with public and non-profit agencies through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to serve the needs of low-income residents. It is through these partnerships that we ensure CSBG funding continues to support the already successful programs that are vital to our most vulnerable populations. Successful methods used by our subcontractors to coordinate services are through the initial referral process where clients are screened and assessed while working collaboratively with organizations within the consortium to ensure clients are provided with the vital services they are lacking. Another method used by our subcontractors to coordinate services and funding is by delivering food to the partner agencies that provide dining halls for residents. This allows our subcontractors to leverage funding and best meet the needs of the community. Several coalitions and advisory groups attended by staff and board members help to inform our conclusions of needs and best practices in our communities when responding to the needs of our low-income community. They are:

- Family Economic Security Partnership – EOC Member and CSBG Program Director attends.
- Ensuring Opportunity – CSBG Program Director attends and is on leadership team.
- Head Start Policy Council – EOC Member and CSBG Program Director attends meetings.
- Head Start Health, Mental Health and Nutrition Advisory Council – CSBG Program Director attends.

There is no CSBG funding currently attached to these efforts.

2. Provide information on any memorandums of understanding and/or service agreements your agency has with other entities regarding coordination of services/funding. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(C), Organizational Standard 2.1, State Plan 9.7)

In the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, CSB, City of Richmond Workforce Development Board and America's Job Centers of California (AJCC)/CalJobs have entered into an agreement that will assist clients in the county with the following services:

- Looking to find a job
- Building basic educational or occupational skills
- Earning a postsecondary certificate or degree
- Obtaining guidance on how to make career choices
- Seeking to identify and hire skilled workers.
- Referral of EHSD clients for participation in AJCC Workforce development services
- AJCC partner sharing service information via brochures and/or flyers.
- Provide annual cross training for AJCC staff regarding Contra Costa EHSD Services, policies, and procedures.

CSB also has numerous MOUs and Interagency Agreements that facilitate the work we do with pregnant women, children 0-5 years of age, and their families such as:

- School Districts
- Family, Maternal and Child Health Programs
- Family Development Credential
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Children and Family Services
- Bay Area Discovery Museum
- Regional Centers of the Bay Area
- Special Education Local Planning Area
- Department of Child Support Services

3. Describe how your agency ensures delivery of services to low-income individuals while avoiding duplication of services in the service area(s). (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(5), California Government Code 12760)

All services are targeted at low-income individuals and families by a wide dissemination of opportunities made available through CSBG funds. The Request of Proposal (RFP) process used to obtain request for funding explicitly requires applicants to demonstrate no duplication and leveraging of existing funds. A Service Provider Roundtable is convened each year and outreach materials are shared so that the subcontractors are advertising the services. Service providers learn the scope of

the collective work we are doing and ensure there is no duplication of services. Staff attend multiple community meetings and share this information and the county's 211 information and referral hotline includes these programs in its offerings. CSB participates in numerous large community fairs and includes information on programs. Our EOC members are excellent at sharing information at the various events and activities they are involved in and are the very best at targeting this information to the low-income community.

Ensuring there is no duplication of services is of utmost importance when determining our services, which are all targeted at low-income individuals and families. For example, our job-training program is unique in the county as it is paid, includes online training in addition to on-the-job training, and leads to county employment, and is considered the "gold standard" in job placement circles.

4. Describe how your agency will leverage other funding sources and increase programmatic and/or organizational capacity. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(C))

Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD) is part of a broad-based coalition called the Funders Forum that looks to private foundations for funding to ensure safety net services remain intact in the event of reduced or eliminated state and/or federal funding. The Economic Opportunity Council has also engaged the CSBG sub-contractors in advocacy efforts to prevent the elimination of funding by sharing success stories and by banding together to form a cohesive group of service providers with a shared mission of serving the poor.

5. Describe your agency's contingency plan for potential funding reductions. (California Government Code Section 12747(a))

CSB is 100% grant funded by the state and federal government. If funding is reduced, we would attempt to fill the gaps with funding from foundations and when not possible, we would undertake lean management measures to ensure that safety net services are funded first and scale back on any non-essential costs. We would also seek funding from the county general fund to fill the gaps as appropriate.

6. Describe how your agency will address the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs and promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(1)(B), State Plan 14.1b)

CSB currently contracts with Hope Solutions. Their mission is: We heal the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services to vulnerable families and individuals. CSBG funds their Youth Enrichment Centers which serve as safe havens for homeless children and teens, offering specialized mental health support and individualized academic assessment and coaching. They provide daily tutoring, a teen club, summer camps, and enrichment activities that foster healing and growth. CSB also operates alternative payment programs that provide vouchers for childcare and after school programs for children up to their 13th birthday, allowing parents to go to work knowing that their children are placed in safe, enriching

environments.

7. Describe how your agency will promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth, and support development and expansion of innovative community-based youth development programs such as the establishment of violence-free zones, youth mediation, youth mentoring, life skills training, job creation, entrepreneurship programs, after after-school childcare. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(1)(B), State Plan 14.1b)

Increased community coordination and collaboration in serving the needs of youth is achieved through the post pandemic re-emergence of the Children's Leadership Council. The Children's Leadership Council strives to serve as the 'Big Tent' for our children—a space for all child- and youth-serving organizations to connect and innovate solutions to local issues. The Children's Leadership Council aims to intentionally develop and strengthen the ecosystem that recognizes and supports child, youth, family, and community resilience and wellbeing.

The Council is led by First 5 Contra Costa, the Employment and Human Services Department, the Health Services Department, the county's Resource and Referral Agency, CoCoKids, and the Contra Costa County Office of Education. Currently, First 5 Contra Costa is serving as the backbone organization coordinating the work of the Children's Leadership Council.

8. Describe your agency's coordination of employment and training activities as defined in Section 3 of the Workforce and Innovation and Opportunity Act [29 U.S.C. 3102]. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(5); State Plan 9.4b)

CSB offers employment and job-training programs using CSBG and Head Start funds. CSBG funds seven student interns who are low-income in a 12-month paid program. These interns work directly in CSB. Once selected by an interview panel, the intern is placed in a job and assigned a mentor coach. The onboarding process includes soft skills training, such as professionalism, as well training to become a clerical assistant via an evidence-based online training program called Matrix. Over the course of 6 months, the intern is trained on-the-job via Matrix and the assigned supervisor and evaluated by the supervisor at the 6-month mark. If the intern is performing satisfactorily, they continue for the final 6 months where completion of Matrix and job placement occurs. Interns are also connected with the AJCCs/CalJobs Centers to enhance resume writing and engage in job placement activities if they choose to work outside the county. If they wish to work inside the county, we train them to pass the test for full-time employment as a county clerk. CSBG funds are also used to fund a job-training program called Opportunity Junction. This program combines computer skills training with life skills, paid work experience, and case management in 12-week full-time training and job placement assistance.

9. Describe how your agency will provide emergency supplies and services, nutritious foods, and related services, as may be necessary, to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(4), State Plan 14.4)

All CSB operated facilities have emergency supplies, including emergency food for up to 72 hours after a disaster. For the wider community, there CSBG funds several multi-purpose agencies who meet the needs of the community by providing emergency supplies and services: Monument Crisis Center, Greater Richmond Interfaith Program, and St. Vincent de Paul. Emergency food and other supplies are readily available at these sites. CSBG also funds Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County that operates five kitchens to feed the hungry with hot, prepared meals as well as emergency food bags. In addition to these directly operated and subcontractor-based provision of emergency services, CSB also utilizes CSBG funding to provide emergency backpacks to the unhoused that included necessary items to survive the cold in the winter and the heat in the summer. EHSD and other county departments also operate cooling centers around the county during heat waves. During emergencies, such as national disasters, the county works with the Office of Emergency Services and the American Red Cross to set up multi-purpose emergency shelters. Mock set up events are held annually to ensure that we are always prepared. CSB is also well situated in the event of an emergency in that we are part of the county structure and work closely with Public Health to meet the needs of our communities.

10. Is your agency a dual (CSBG and LIHEAP) service provider?

☒ Yes

☐ No

11. For dual agencies:

Describe how your agency coordinates with other antipoverty programs in your area, including the emergency energy crisis intervention programs under Title XXVI, relating to low-income home energy assistance (LIHEAP) that are conducted in the community. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(6), State Plan 9.5)

For all other agencies:

Describe how your agency coordinates services with your local LIHEAP service provider?

CSB is the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) provider. We conduct community training throughout the year and attend community resource fairs where we establish partnerships with other service providers. We've established formal partnerships with Salvation Army, Crisis Center (211), Monument Crisis Center, St. Vincent de Paul and many others for referrals, sharing resources and program news. Our menu of services includes home energy assistance, weatherization, childcare (directly operated and alternative payment vouchers) and the full array of services provided by our CSBG subcontractors.

12. Describe how your agency will use funds to support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives, which may include fatherhood and other initiatives, with the goal of strengthening families and encouraging effective parenting. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(D), State Plan 14.3d)

CSB implements the following programs in-house:

- **Make Parenting a Pleasure:** a research- and evidence-based group parenting curriculum by Parenting Now built on a foundation of 40 years of experience in working with highly stressed families with children ages newborn to eight. Based in the same theoretical foundation as the original curriculum, the updated Make Parenting A Pleasure, Second Edition was field-tested in each phase of development to ensure that the new 12-session configuration is effective and well-received by parenting educators and parents when classes are conducted within a real-world
- **24-7 Dad:** an evidence-based fatherhood program used by hundreds of organizations across the nation to improve the knowledge, behavior, and skills of dads of all races, religions, and demographics. The program is built on the basis that fathers can be nurturers, and for men, nurturing is a learned skill.

CSB also collaborates with the following organizations with the goal of strengthening families and encouraging effective parenting:

- **C.O.P.E. Family Support Center:** C.O.P.E.'s mission is to strengthen family relationships through counseling options and parent education programs. We provide a safe space and supportive environment that nurtures families and encourages healthy relationships. They offer Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) and trained 1,245 clients in 2022. They also provide therapy personalized to the family's situation and provided these services to 811 clients in 2022.

Contra Costa First 5 Centers: offers events and classes (both in-person and virtually) to support families with young children to co-create the best possible environments for them to learn and grow. Those environments include homes, neighborhoods, classrooms, and communities. There are five centers throughout the county.

13. Describe how your agency will develop linkages to fill identified gaps in the services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management, and follow-up consultations. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(B), State Plan 9.3b)

CSB operates a student intern program funded by CSBG that provides a 12-month on-the-job training program, which most often results in permanent employment in the field of human services within the county. The students begin by mastering Microsoft Office Suite and office environmental skills to receive and enter data into our CLOUDS management information systems. In the second half of the year, they work to fill the gaps in services for our families by providing information, referrals, case management, and follow-up. CSB and its partners also utilize the 211 databases to develop linkages and fill gaps presented by our clients. The database allows us to provide maps to locate services and offers translations into many different languages. It is operated by the Contra Costa Crisis Center, which also has a crisis hotline. Finally, there are numerous coalitions in which staff and board members participate that offer excellent opportunities to develop linkages to serve the needs and interest of the low-income community. This foregrounds a focus of our CAP – access to services.

Monitoring

ROMA – Planning, Evaluation

1. If your agency utilizes subcontractors, please describe your process for monitoring the subcontractors. Include the frequency, type of monitoring, i.e., onsite, desk review, or both, follow-up on corrective action, issuance of formal monitoring reports, and emergency monitoring procedures.

Prior to monitoring visit: CSBG staff schedule a visit with subcontractors for both a site visit and file review annually. We analyze service levels, performance indicators, evaluation tools, quality of interaction with customers, accuracy of information provided, adherence to established procedures, and the accuracy of data collected in each file. If we determine our subcontractors are not utilizing their funding, their quarterly report data is off target, or we obtain information about service issues such as a client complaint, an emergency monitoring event will take place by staff. In all instances, if staff find a non-compliant item, a corrective action plan will be given to the subcontractor with a date of completion and will request documentation to support the correction.

ROMA Application

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12)

Organizational Standards 4.2, 4.3

ROMA – Planning, Evaluation



1. Describe how your agency will evaluate the effectiveness of its programs and services. Include information about the types of measurement tools, the data sources and collection procedures, and the frequency of data collection and reporting. (Organizational Standard 4.3)

CSB has a Quality Management Unit charged with monitoring its programs to ensure that they meet, and in most cases, exceed, the requirement of local, state, and federal regulations. The ongoing monitoring system utilized is part of CSB's award-winning and state and federally recognized management information system called CLOUDS. Monitoring is conducted quarterly by a team of program monitors, using tools developed by the agency based on regulatory requirements in service areas such as health and safety, education, health, eligibility and enrollment, nutrition, mental health, and disabilities. Once a monitoring visit is completed, the report is uploaded into the CLOUDS system. If there are corrective actions required, they are noted in the report, and they are sent to the staff person responsible. The corrective action must be completed immediately for anything that is related to health and safety, and within 30 days for other items. The completed corrective action plan is submitted in CLOUDS and the monitor returns to evaluate the correction within two weeks to certify the action was completed. Agency and site level monitoring reports are presented to Senior Managers twice annually and include trend and root cause analyses.

2. Select one need from Table 2: Priority Ranking Table and describe how your agency plans to implement, monitor progress, and evaluate the program designed to address the need. (Organizational Standard 4.2)

Housing/Homelessness has been one of the greatest needs in Contra Costa County. CSB will utilize CSBG dollars to collaborate with non-profits that specialize in assisting the unsheltered. We will begin by defining clear objectives and measurable goals to create a plan. We will regularly assess performance through quarterly reports, annual reports and annual onsite visits. During our visits we will collect quantitative and qualitative data to determine progression of programs as well as identify areas for improvement. These steps will allow us to effectively implement and monitor progress, and make sure we are on track to achieve set goals.

Optional

- 3 . Select one community level need from Table 2: Priority Ranking Table or your agency's most recent Community Needs Assessment and describe how your agency plans to implement, monitor progress, and evaluate the program designed to address the need. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12), Organizational Standard 4.2)

Not applicable.

Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances

CSBG Act Section 676(b)

Use of CSBG Funds Supporting Local Activities

676(b)(1)(A): The state will assure “that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used – (A) to support activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals, including families and individuals receiving assistance under title IV of the Social Security Act, homeless families and individuals, migrant or seasonal farmworkers, and elderly low-income individuals and families, and a description of how such activities will enable the families and individuals--

- a. to remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self- sufficiency (particularly for families and individuals who are attempting to transition off a State program carried out underpart A of title IV of the Social Security Act);
 - b. to secure and retain meaningful employment;
 - c. to attain an adequate education with particular attention toward improving literacy skills of the low-income families in the community, which may include family literacy initiatives;
 - d. to make better use of available income;
 - e. to obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment;
 - f. to obtain emergency assistance through loans, grants, or other means to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs;
 - g. to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the communities involved, including the development of public and private grassroots
 - h. partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, local housing authorities, private foundations, and other public and private partners to
-
- i. document best practices based on successful grassroots intervention in urban areas, to develop methodologies for wide-spread replication; and
 - ii. strengthen and improve relationships with local law enforcement agencies, which may include participation in activities such as neighborhood or community policing efforts;

Needs of Youth

676(b)(1)(B) The state will assure “that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used – (B) to address the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs that support the primary role of the family, give priority to the prevention of youth problems and crime, and promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth, and support development and expansion of innovative community-based youth development programs that have demonstrated success in preventing or reducing youth crime, such as--

- I. programs for the establishment of violence-free zones that would involve youth development and intervention models (such as models involving youth mediation, youth mentoring, life skills training, job creation, and entrepreneurship programs); and
- II. after-school childcare programs.

Coordination of Other Programs

676(b)(1)(C) The state will assure “that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used – (C) to make more effective use of, and to coordinate with, other programs related to the purposes of this subtitle (including state welfare reform efforts)

Eligible Entity Service Delivery System

676(b)(3)(A) Eligible entities will describe “the service delivery system, for services provided or coordinated with funds made available through grants made under 675C(a), targeted to low-income individuals and families in communities within the state;

Eligible Entity Linkages – Approach to Filling Service Gaps

676(b)(3)(B) Eligible entities will describe “how linkages will be developed to fill identified gaps in the services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management, and follow-up consultations.”

Coordination of Eligible Entity Allocation 90 Percent Funds with Public/Private Resources

676(b)(3)(C) Eligible entities will describe how funds made available through grants made under 675C(a) will be coordinated with other public and private resources.”

Eligible Entity Innovative Community and Neighborhood Initiatives, Including Fatherhood/Parental Responsibility

676(b)(3)(D) Eligible entities will describe “how the local entity will use the funds [made available under 675C(a)] to support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives related to the purposes of this subtitle, which may include fatherhood initiatives and other initiatives with the goal of strengthening families and encouraging parenting.”

Eligible Entity Emergency Food and Nutrition Services

676(b)(4) An assurance “that eligible entities in the state will provide, on an emergency basis, for the provision of such supplies and services, nutritious foods, and related services, as may be necessary to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals.”

State and Eligible Entity Coordination/linkages and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Employment and Training Activities

676(b)(5) An assurance “that the State and eligible entities in the State will coordinate, and establish linkages between, governmental and other social services programs to assure the effective delivery of such services, and [describe] how the State and the eligible entities will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in the State and in communities with entities providing activities through statewide and local workforce development systems under such Act.”

State Coordination/Linkages and Low-income Home Energy Assistance

676(b)(6) “[A]n assurance that the State will ensure coordination between antipoverty programs in each community in the State, and ensure, where appropriate, that emergency energy crisis intervention programs under title XXVI (relating to low-income home energy assistance) are conducted in such community.”

Community Organizations

676(b)(9) An assurance “that the State and eligible entities in the state will, to the maximum extent possible, coordinate programs with and form partnerships with other organizations serving low-income residents of the communities and members of the groups served by the State, including religious organizations, charitable groups, and community organizations.”

Eligible Entity Tripartite Board Representation

676(b)(10) “[T]he State will require each eligible entity in the State to establish procedures under which a low-income individual, community organization, or religious organization, or representative of low-income individuals that considers its organization, or low-income individuals, to be inadequately represented on the board (or other mechanism) of the eligible entity to petition for adequate representation.”

Eligible Entity Community Action Plans and Community Needs Assessments

676(b)(11) “[A]n assurance that the State will secure from each eligible entity in the State, as a condition to receipt of funding by the entity through a community service block grant made under this subtitle for a program, a community action plan (which shall be submitted to the Secretary, at the request of the Secretary, with the State Plan) that includes a community needs assessment for the community serviced, which may be coordinated with the community needs assessment conducted for other programs.”

State and Eligible Entity Performance Measurement: ROMA or Alternate System

676(b)(12) “[A]n assurance that the State and all eligible entities in the State will, not later than fiscal year 2001, participate in the Results Oriented Management and Accountability System, another performance measure system for which the Secretary facilitated development pursuant to section 678E(b), or an alternative system for measuring performance and results that meets the requirements of that section, and [describe] outcome measures to be used to measure eligible entity performance in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization.”

Fiscal Controls, Audits, and Withholding

678D(a)(1)(B) An assurance that cost and accounting standards of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are maintained.

State Assurances

California Government Code Sections 12747(a), 12760, 12768

For CAA, MSFW, NAI, and LPA Agencies

[California Government Code § 12747\(a\)](#): Community action plans shall provide for the contingency of reduced federal funding.

[California Government Code § 12760](#): CSBG agencies funded under this article shall coordinate their plans and activities with other agencies funded under Articles 7 (commencing with Section 12765) and 8 (commencing with Section 12770) that serve any part of their communities, so that funds are not used to duplicate particular services to the same beneficiaries and plans and policies affecting all grantees under this chapter are shaped, to the extent possible, so as to be equitable and beneficial to all community agencies and the populations they serve.

For MSFW Agencies Only

[California Government Code § 12768](#): Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) entities funded by the department shall coordinate their plans and activities with other agencies funded by the department to avoid duplication of services and to maximize services for all eligible beneficiaries.

Organizational Standards

Category One: Consumer Input and Involvement

Standard 1.1 The organization/department demonstrates low-income individuals' participation in its activities.

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

Category Two: Community Engagement

Standard 2.1 The organization/department has documented or demonstrated partnerships across the community, for specifically identified purposes; partnerships include other anti-poverty organizations in the area.

Standard 2.2 The organization/department 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 Three: Community Assessment

Standard 3.1 (Private) Organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3 years.

Standard 3.1 (Public) The department conducted or was engaged in a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3-year period, if no other report exists.

Standard 3.2 As part of the community assessment, the organization/department 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/department 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 or tripartite board/advisory body formally accepts the completed community assessment.

Category Four: Organizational Leadership

Standard 4.2 The organization's/department's Community Action Plan is outcome-based, anti-poverty focused, and ties directly to the community assessment.

Standard 4.3 The organization's/department's Community Action Plan and strategic plan document the continuous use of the full Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) cycle or comparable system (assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation). In addition, the organization documents having used the services of a ROMA-certified trainer (or equivalent) to assist in implementation.

Part III: Appendices

Please complete the table below by entering the title of the document and its assigned appendix letter. Agencies must provide a copy of the Notice(s) of Public Hearing, the Low-Income Testimony and the Agency's Response document, and a copy of the most recent community needs assessment as appendices A, B, and C, respectively. Other appendices as necessary are encouraged. All appendices should be labeled as an appendix (e.g., Appendix A: Notice of Public Hearing) or separated by divider sheets and submitted with the CAP.

Document Title	Appendix Location
Notice of Public Hearing	A
Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response	B
Community Needs Assessment	C