
Colusa-Glenn-Trinity CAP Goals

Community Assessment and Priorities

The following Priorities were established as a result of seven (7) community meetings conducted throughout Colusa, Glenn and Trinity counties in April/May of 2009 **with attendance of 99 community members** and service providers. Prior to the meetings, surveys were distributed to community members and also made available (for the first time) via the Internet. In all three counties, the surveys were made available in English and Spanish. **Over 1000 surveys were returned** from the three counties. Information was gathered about concerns in each county during the tabulation of data gathered from the community meetings and surveys. In addition to the specific activities above, additional community assessment information was gathered from planning sessions held in conjunction with the implementation of the Dos Rios Continuum of Care Plan, including associated homeless survey data gathered by CAD staff, CAP board members, Children’s Services feedback and evaluation, as well as prior period’s outcome and experience data.

| CGT Priority | Goal 1 | Goal 2 | Goal 3 | Goal 4 | Goal 5 | Goal 6 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. Youth Needs / Employment | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 2. Housing | | X | | X | | X |
| 3. Partnerships / Capacity | X | X | X | X | X | X |

| Glenn Priorities | Colusa Priorities | Trinity Priorities |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Youth Needs | 1. Youth Needs/Employment | 1. Housing (Affordable) |
| 2. Housing/Shelter | 2. Partnership/Capacity | 2. Job Development |
| 3. Partnership/Capacity | 3. Insurance/Medical | 3. Youth Employment |

National Goal 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient

1.1 Employment

Problem Statement: Colusa, Glenn and Trinity Counties suffer from extremely high Unemployment Rates (Colusa-25.6%, ranking it the highest among California's 58 counties; Glenn-17.1%, ranking it 47th among the 58 counties; and Trinity-21.9%, ranking it 56th among the 58 counties). This compares to a statewide rate of 11.5% (as of March 2009, EDD's Labor Market Information Survey). In addition, low Educational Attainment levels and very few living wage jobs exacerbate these issues. Each county is further challenged by limited availability of vocational training programs.

1. Maintain two (2) One-Stop Employment Centers in Glenn County. Provide employment and job search assistance to EVERY person who agrees to enroll. Expand Employment services to the community of Hamilton City, which has been utilizing the Family Resource Centers for job search and employment-related needs.
2. Participate in economic development planning coalitions to ensure business partnerships which promote job/vocational trainings and employment to low-income individuals.
3. Provide services that support business start-up and retention of living wage jobs via a Microenterprise Project.
4. Offer a subsidized employment program for all willing CalWORKs participants.
5. Participate in the Northern Central Counties Consortium.
6. Continue partnerships with Colusa and Trinity One-Stops.
7. Inculcate ILP Programs into the WIA OneStop service delivery system's youth programs.
8. Ensure that agency job recruitments are distributed and advertised in Colusa and Trinity Counties.
9. Provide technical assistance to non-profits, grassroots and faith-based organizations to assist with building organizational capacity and partnership development.
10. Expand regional efforts to support "green" construction, training in alternative sources of energy and work experience opportunities.

1.2 Employment Supports

Problem Statement: Colusa, Glenn and Trinity Counties are challenged by limited public transportation, isolated communities, limited availability of vocational training programs (Colusa County is lacking a community college presence), and limited child care resources. Subsequently, household financial resources are not adequate to meet basic safety net needs such as housing, energy, food, healthcare, childcare, and clothing. This results in stresses hindering job search, acquisition, and maintenance.

1. Provide case management services to individuals seeking employment or advancement.
2. Offer supportive services; safety net services, child care/after school program referral, transportation, resume and basic skills development.
3. Via the "duty team" process, link families to programs that address complex barriers such as domestic violence or drug and alcohol exposure.
4. Partner with Butte College in Glenn County to expand vocational training opportunities.
5. Explore strategies that create employment opportunities for youth, including a Summer Youth Program and expanded YES Program (Youth Employment Services).
6. Participate with public works and other agencies to promote opportunities for public transportation to work.
7. Partner with Education to ensure after-school programs are in place.
8. Continue partnerships with Child Care Resource and Referral.
9. Conduct RFP process in Colusa and Trinity to allow local employment support solutions.
10. Continued maintenance of a regional, multi-county website product (URL: www.bustnout.net), designed primarily for foster youth, including links and information on OneStop Employment Centers and other available resources.
11. Explore and re-engage partners to implement mentoring services as a strategy to address youth employment, with career exploration as a focus topic.
12. Offer community sessions to explore opportunities in strengths-based careers.
13. Support career exploration for youth utilizing the Roadtrip Nation model, as it becomes available.

1.3 Economic Assets Enhancement and Utilization

Problem Statement: Colusa, Glenn and Trinity Counties' household financial resources are not adequate to meet basic safety net needs such as housing, energy, food, healthcare, childcare, and clothing. Each county has Earned Income tax dollars that go unclaimed each year. Youth and other low-income often have no accumulated savings.

1. Provide outreach for telephone lifeline services in Colusa, Glenn and Trinity Counties.
2. All HEAP applicants (Colusa-Glenn-Trinity) are automatically enrolled in the CARE program.
3. Meet Energy Partners (all three counties) requirement to enroll all participants in CARE.
4. Provide systems and supports to assist foster youth to accumulate savings.
5. Conduct RFP process in Colusa, Glenn and Trinity to solicit organizations to implement Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Programs, and provide technical assistance as needed.
6. Energy Assistance, Wood, Propane & Oil payments can be made for clients needing assistance under these programs, once-a-year in Colusa, Glenn, and Trinity Counties. All clients applying for these services are automatically referred for Weatherization services. Clients that apply for Rent Assistance and/or Eviction Prevention programs are required to attend a budgeting/financial literacy workshop.

National Goal 2: The conditions in which low-income live are improved

2.1 Community Improvement and Revitalization

Problem Statement: Colusa, Glenn, and Trinity Counties suffer from limited new construction and limited rehabilitation of community facilities. Many community halls need repair and equipment to maintain usefulness. Trinity and Glenn have been plagued with failing hospitals. There is a lack of community facilities such as Boys and Girls Clubs. The Orland Family Resource Center (FRC) and Hamilton City FRC are operating beyond

capacity. The Orland site needs repairs and has an ineffective design and space for program needs. Colusa and Glenn counties have an ongoing need for transitional housing facilities and affordable housing. Colusa has limited food bank access. There is a need for local community-based foster family homes.

1. Continue to support the maintenance of the existing food bank in Colusa County and work to expand food bank services to additional sites in Colusa County.
2. Explore and identify strategies to enhance Family Resource Center Facilities.
3. Identify partners to share in this long-term plan.
4. Identify foundations or other funding sources to support on-going facility sustainability.
5. Support planning efforts and review funding options for community facilities that support low-income, including exploration of transitional housing opportunities.
6. Develop a network of community gardens or other solutions to meet food needs.

2.2 Community Quality of Life and Assets

Problem Statement: As previously stated above (in Section 2.1), Colusa, Glenn, and Trinity Counties suffer from limited new construction and limited rehabilitation of community facilities. Many community halls need repair and equipment to maintain usefulness. There is a lack of community facilities such as Boys and Girls Clubs. The Orland FRC and Hamilton City FRC sites are operating beyond capacity. The Orland site needs repairs and has an ineffective design and space for program needs. Colusa and Glenn counties lack transitional housing facilities and affordable housing. Colusa has limited higher educational access. There is limited access to training opportunities in Williams. There is a need for local community-based foster family homes.

1. Continue efforts to bring opportunities for families and youth to access services that support improved well-being in all counties.
2. Explore and identify strategies to enhance Family Resource Center facilities. Identify partners to share in this long-term plan. Identify foundations or other funding sources to support on-going facility sustainability. Continue efforts to sustain access to provide Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) services.

3. Support planning efforts and review funding options for community facilities that support low-income, including exploration of transitional housing opportunities.
4. Continue efforts with Child Welfare Improvement testing to recommend policy and legislative change in support of service improvements to families and children.
5. Increase the number of licensed community foster homes for children.
6. Family Self-Sufficiency Program is solely funded with CSBG funds, as this program is currently not funded through another source. The program is offered to Section 8 clients in Colusa, Glenn and Trinity Counties by establishing an escrow savings account (in which a percentage of their rent) is placed into this account to increase their savings and at the end of the five-year program contract will receive these funds, plus accrued interest, in order to help them increase their assets, via purchase of a home or vehicle, education and/or start-up of a business.
7. Develop partnerships and program design for sustainable mentoring services.
8. Utilize VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) members to build on community strengths, and to address quality of life, food sustainability and volunteerism.

National Goal 3: Low-income people own a stake in their community

3.1 Civic Investment

Problem Statement: Fiscal resources in all three counties are scarce and require agencies and programs to utilize volunteers to meet community needs. Volunteers often lack the training to provide the technical skills required to fulfill comprehensive volunteer roles. Volunteers are aging and a newer generation is not readily evident. There is a need for community-based foster families and mentors.

1. Continue annual celebration of volunteers in Colusa, Glenn, and Trinity Counties.
2. Promote opportunities for volunteerism, through the VITA program, various Councils, mentoring opportunities, Foster Families, Food Banks, Family Resource Centers, and programs requiring volunteers.
3. Provide stipends for childcare/transportation to allow participation and remove barriers. Provide training and meaningful volunteer job descriptions.

4. Continue efforts to coordinate supervision of AmeriCorps. Develop strategies with Children's Services to recruit, train, and support foster families. Promote youth leadership/volunteer opportunities.
5. Establish and maintain a VISTA Program.
6. Provide opportunities to develop leadership skills and promote involvement of community members.

3.2 Community Empowerment Through Maximum Feasible Participation

Problem Statement: The communities in the counties we serve have unique needs. Community inclusion and recognizing the value that every community member can contribute, assists in program leverage and program development that is responsive to those needs. Colusa, Glenn and Trinity counties are being affected by child welfare improvement activities, which must be reflective of community needs. It is critical that family and youth be included in decisions and planning for services. Some communities have limited participation. Low-income individuals are typically renters, rather than homeowners, and hence, do not build assets. Low-income families and individuals seldom have resources to start businesses.

1. Continue to support participation of community in local governance, decision-making, and identification of community solutions.
2. Continue to support individuals through the issuance of stipends, as available, and provide training for program participants.
3. Continue efforts to build community awareness of the value of community participation, such as Family Resource Center Parent boards.
4. Continue to provide opportunities for community to participate in service provision.
5. Continue to support the California Youth Connection.
6. Work with the Grindstone Rancheria or other communities to develop a parent/community board or local participatory body.
7. Conduct outreach for business services to promote and provide assistance for business start-up.
8. Provide first-time homebuyers assistance.

National Goal 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved

4.1 Expanding Opportunities through Community-Wide Partnerships

Problem Statement: As small rural counties, Colusa, Glenn and Trinity are very dependent upon partnerships that allow the sharing of expertise and resources. The ability to leverage efforts through local and regional partnerships is imperative. Rural counties often can't successfully compete for Federal resources. Wages are often lower than in neighboring areas, creating challenges for attracting and retaining qualified staff. Non-profit agencies are limited in all three communities. Partnerships allow for coordination of scarce resources.

1. Continue efforts with Dos Rios Continuum of Care (CoC), Parent Child Interaction Therapy, School Readiness, Children's Interagency Coordinating Council, www.bustnout.net, with local transit agencies, and OneStop partnerships in each county.
2. Continue active role in testing child welfare improvement activities with social services, including participation with Transition Youth Planning and universal pre-school planning.
3. Share technical skill knowledge with emerging start-up projects, initiatives, and non-profits to leverage fiscal resources and collect based data.
4. Identify new partnership initiatives and community based solutions; including new partnerships with Grindstone Rancheria and HMIS regionally.
5. Provide business assistance services and participate in partnership networks with the Glenn County Planning and Community Development Services Agency, Butte College Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Tri-County Economic Development Corporation, and Community Development Services (CDS).

National Goal 5: Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results

5.1 Broadening the Resource Base

Problem Statement: Due to limited non-profit presence In Colusa, Glenn, and Trinity counties it is essential that Community Action operates as an entity that leverages critical additional Federal, State, and Local resources with its base funding. Without the Community Action Partnership in Colusa, Glenn, and Trinity Counties, it is estimated that each county would lose close to \$8 million of local services and revenue. This would equate to about 160 living wage jobs.

1. Leverage Federal, State and Local resources to meet or exceed past levels of service in Colusa, Glenn and Trinity Counties.
2. Continue efforts to fully implement Homeless Case Management Information system (HMIS) for Colusa, Glenn, and Trinity Counties, via McKinney-Vento funding.
3. Fully implement Tapestry Software System to capture outcomes and other client data.
4. Continue implementation of ServTraq. ServTraq allows our agency to track data on LIHEAP, HEAP and other similar services provided to low-income individuals and families.
5. Continue development of volunteers and increase the amount of time volunteers provide as a supportive resource.
6. Continue efforts to increase resources for priority areas throughout the CGTCAP service area. This strategy allows our agency to maximize leveraging opportunities.
7. Conduct, or participate in, community needs assessments to better understand and create solutions to service gaps, such as gang violence.
8. Work to establish regional partnerships to develop alternative (green) renewable and sustainable solutions to community needs and job development.

National Goal 6: Low-income people especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments

6.1 Independent Living

Problem Statement: Individuals with disabilities find it difficult to maintain independent living. Youth emerging from the foster care or other systems often lack skills and support to live independently. Families in Drug and Alcohol recovery or those recovering from domestic violence often need additional supports.

1. Provide access to basic safety nets services that assist with everyday living, such as food, HEAP-utility and heating fuel assistance, special needs assistance, and Section 8 and Weatherization services.
2. Provide referrals to other agencies. Implement and develop services as guided by the Continuum of Care plan for the provision of services to low-income families and individuals.
3. Participate in planning and coordination of services for the transitioning foster youth population, including fosteryouth.net roll out.
4. Enhance services via the Customer Service Team to better track the success of those who are vulnerable.

6.2 Emergency Assistance

Problem Statement: Families with low-incomes that experience an emergency often result in basic needs going unmet. Generational low-income families often lack family financial and other support systems. Families lack skills to prepare healthy meals. Public transportation is limited. In-county medical services are limited and the demand for out of county transportation for medical care is high and often unmet. A large percentage of crime reports involve domestic violence or child abuse. Gang violence is increasing.

1. Provide access to Safety Net Services; Food, Emergency Shelter, Homeless Prevention, HEAP, Section 8 programs in Colusa, Glenn & Trinity Counties as prescribed by the Continuum of Care Plan.
2. Administer funds and RFP process.
3. Provide technical assistance to Trinity and Colusa Counties in support of programs and resource development to address basic needs.
4. Provide linkage to or provide case management and life skills education to mitigate causes of above conditions.
5. Increase the number of partnerships with agencies that take a community-based approach in improving access to food.

6.3 Child and Family Development

Problem Statement: Generational low-income families often lack family support systems. Positive parenting skills and interaction are often lacking. Child abuse and domestic violence prevail as the dominant crimes in our counties. Family literacy levels and other barriers hinder child development. Foster youth often fail in the educational setting due to frequent moves. Statewide and countywide changes are being driven by needs to improve outcomes for foster children and the system as a whole.

1. Continue partnership with the Health Services Agency to allow early detection of health-related issues.
2. Continue efforts in resource development to identify strategies to improve child welfare practices that support differential response and better child welfare outcomes.
3. Strengthen efforts across the region to support emancipating foster youth.
4. Provide child abuse treatment, victim witness and other supportive services.
5. Seek resources that provide solutions for above needs.
6. Continue parenting education classes and participate in new evidence-based program models to support safety outcomes and the attainment of self-sufficiency.

6.4 Family Supports

Problem Statement: Senior, disabled, and caregivers are often encumbered by obligations and barriers which limit their ability to participate in programs, receive services, and/or otherwise benefit. There is no senior-specific housing in the tri-county region. Services (when and where provided) are often limited in scope and funding. This tends to create a cycle of poverty, as those who are often the neediest have the greatest challenges in affording and accessing those services.

1. Provide disabled youth set-aside slots within the Y.E.S. Program.
2. Provide emergency food and Food Bank services to eligible persons within their own communities, alleviating the need to travel.
3. Provide LIHEAP, WX, and other energy-based services to eligible persons on a county-specific basis.
4. Seek to contract with local providers in each county so that job creation possibilities emerge, including possibly hiring disabled youth and/or seniors who could fulfill the work obligations.

6.5 Service Counts

Problem Statement: Low-income and vulnerable populations often lack the resources necessary to fully participate in holistic activities which could strengthen them and lift them out of poverty. Service provision (based on eligibility criteria mandated by funding sources) can be fragmented and often leave gaps where unfilled needs go unmet. Service provision can sometimes be circuitous, requiring multiple submissions, applications, and redundancies. Systems often are unable to communicate with one another, based on lack of electronic interfaces and/or strict confidentiality rules. New PII (Personal Identifying Information) regulations exacerbate the issue.

1. Simplify Food Bank service delivery while maintain program integrity via enhanced data gathering.
2. Provide holistic service delivery through the “integrated model” (combined social services and community action services in one setting) in use throughout the HRA.
3. Where appropriate (and allowed by law, regulation, or client consent) share information between systems so as to better serve all clients of the HRA.
4. Maintain status as the “go-to” agency throughout the tri-county region, based on comprehensive packaging of ALL services delivered through both the Social Services Division and the Community Action Division of the HRA.

5. Establish policies to protect PII yet cross-reference clientele to ensure there are not gaps in services.