

Somerset Community Action Program

When the numbers aren't enough- Assessing the Needs of Somerset County

Monete Johnson
AFE Presentation
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Overview

Somerset Community Action Program

Somerset County

Community Needs Assessment

Methodology

Findings

Personal Reflections



Somerset Community Action Program

Established in 1965

Economic Opportunity Act

Seeks to increase the self-sufficiency of low to moderate income individuals and families

- ▶ (1) specializing in providing direct services
- ▶ (2) working in collaboration with a network of community partners

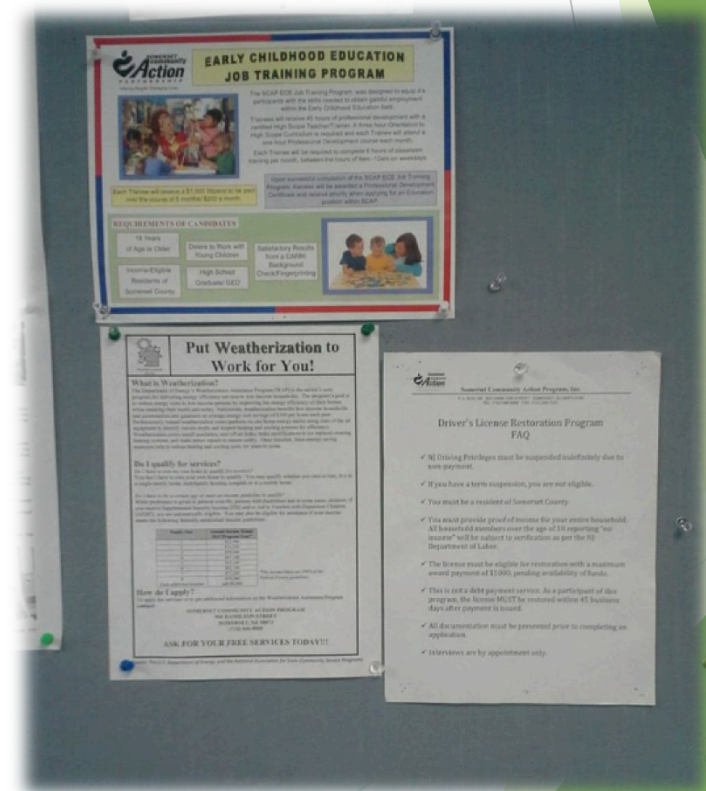
<http://www.somersetcap.org/>



CAP Overview

Services

- ▶ Employment support
 - ▶ Early Childhood Training, Driver's License Restoration, English as a Second Language, Child Development, Head Start
- ▶ Weatherization
- ▶ Emergency Services
- ▶ Asset Development
- ▶ Educational programs for parents



Welcome to Somerset County

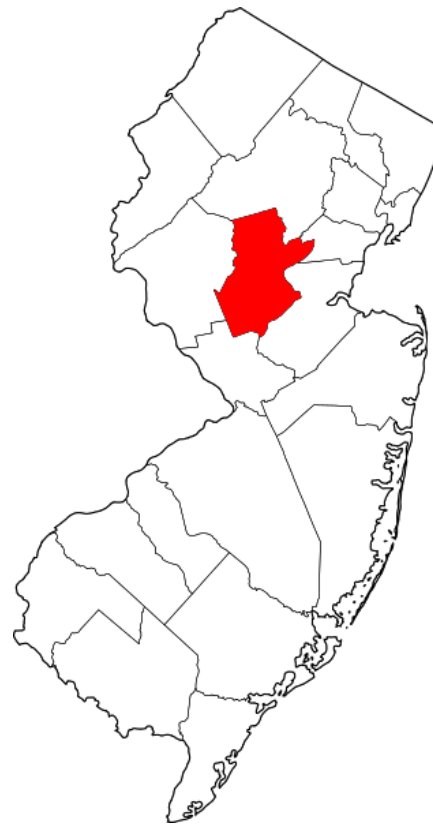
April 25th, 2013 Forbes magazine article, "America's Richest Counties"

- ▶ 9th richest county in the nation
- ▶ the 2nd richest county in New Jersey

West- Hunterdon County (5th & 1st)

Southeast- Middlesex County

21 municipalities



omerset County

Per capita income \$48,090

Median household income is \$98,842

Median value of a home is \$420,500

Home ownership rate of 79.3%

25 years or older, 50.2% have a bachelor's degree or higher and 93% are a high school graduate or higher

[p://www.census.gov/](http://www.census.gov/)

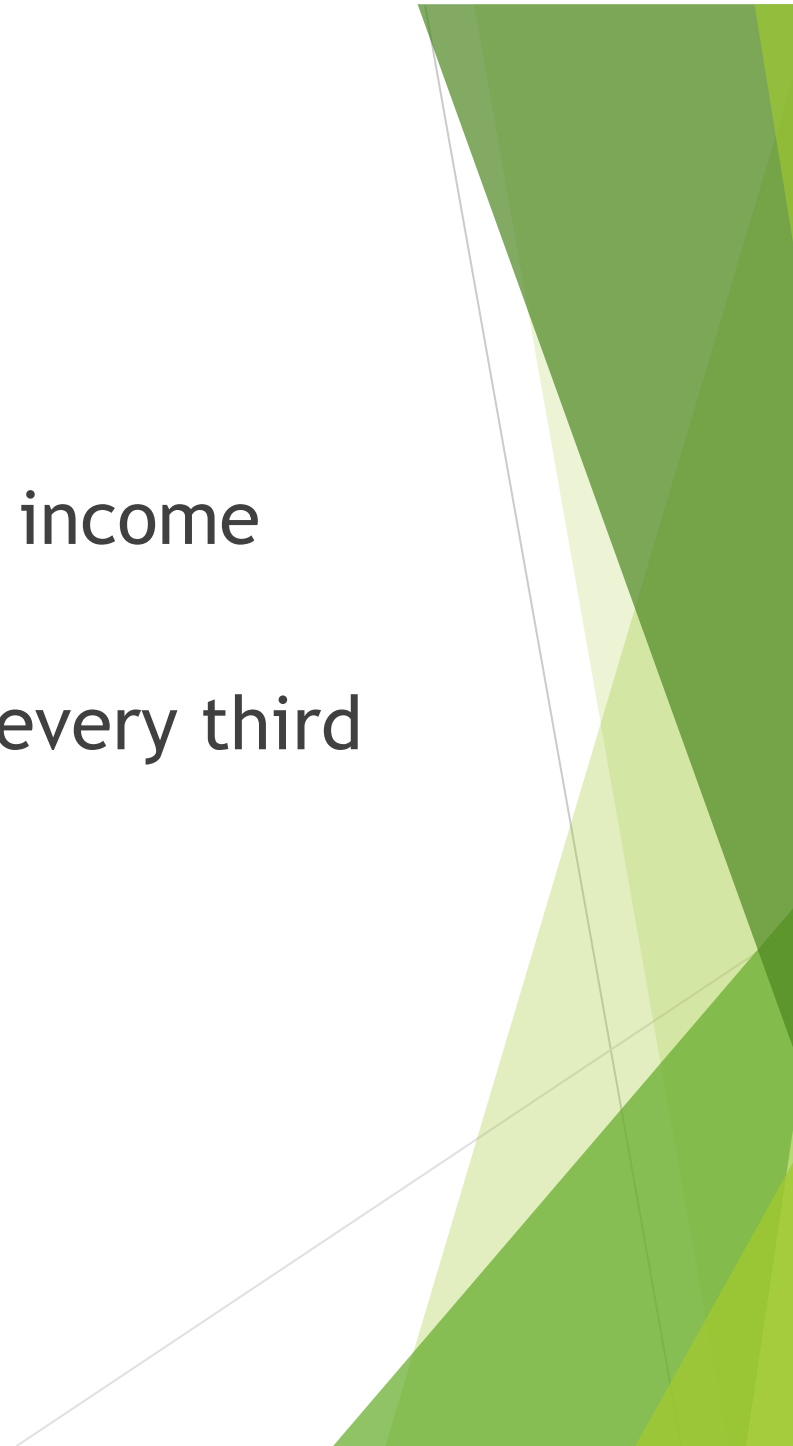
Municipality	Per Capita Income	Families Living Below Poverty Line
S. Bound Brook	\$33,573	4.5%
Bound Brook	\$27,075	5.3%
Franklin Township	\$38,123	4.0%
Manville Borough	\$27,773	3.9%
Raritan	\$35,883	6.6%
N. Plainfield	\$25,133	8.1%
Somerville	\$31,374	3.4%

Community Needs Assessment

Yearly assessment the needs of the low income communities

In-depth community needs assessment every third year

- ▶ Gaps in Services
- ▶ Priority
- ▶ Service Recommendations



Methodology

Comprehensive approach

- ▶ Secondary Data sources as Boards of Education, NJ Kids Count, Somerset County Clerk's Office, Census 2010 and 2011-2012 updates, community-focused reports
- ▶ Client focus groups
- ▶ Client and Community Partner Surveys
- ▶ Interviews with SCAP staff, clients, community partners, and community residents
- ▶ SCAP archives

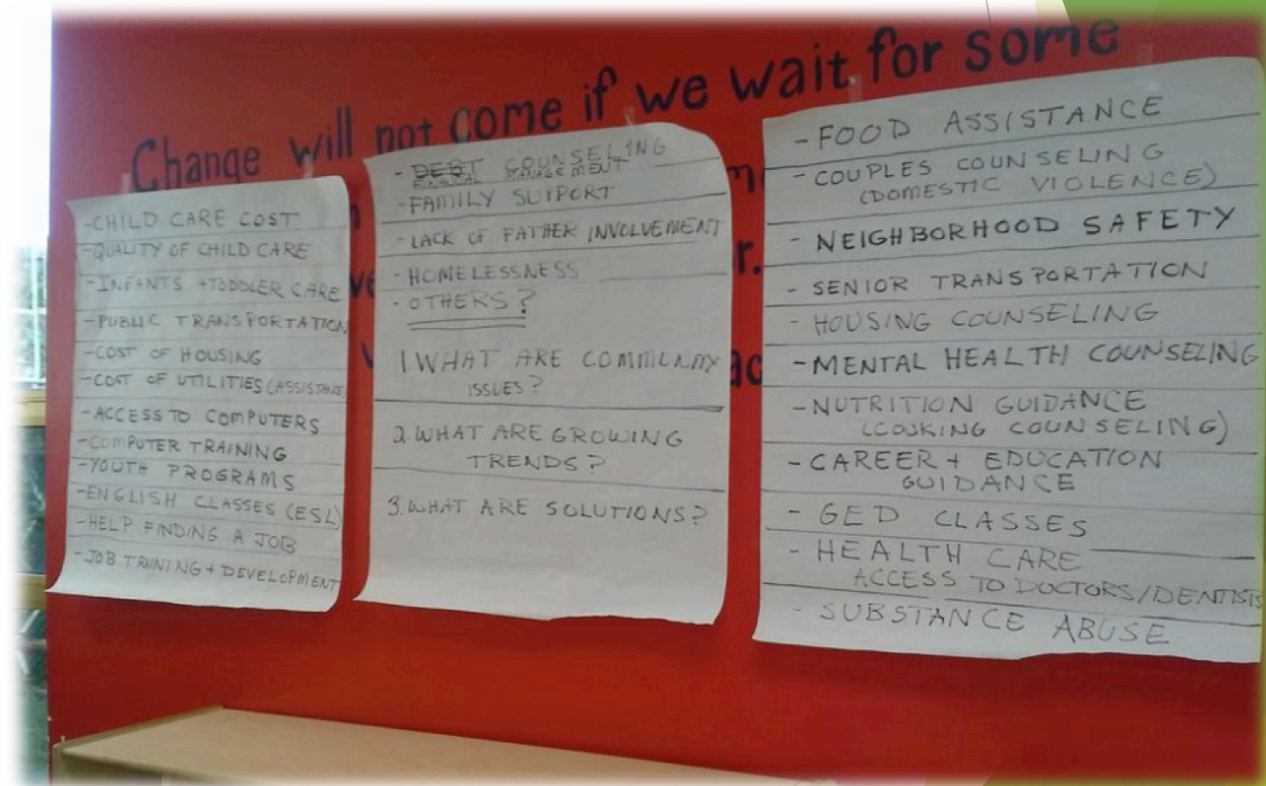


Findings

17 Key Findings

12 Recommendations

- Housing, Transportation, Food Insecurity & Youth Programs



Personal Reflections

First Year Courses

- ▶ Non-Profit Management, Economics of Poverty, CED, Methods I and II

Concentration

- ▶ Community Development & Methods

Second Year Courses

- ▶ Program Evaluation, Cost-Benefits Analysis, U.S. Social Policy, Urban Redevelopment.

Soft Skills



cknowledgments

Mrs. Freda Ofori and the SCAP family

Dave Snyder

Professor Stephanie Curenton



Thank You

