

Executive Summary

Burlington Community Action Partnership (BCAP) Needs Assessment

Burlington Community Action Partnership (BCAP) conducted a comprehensive community needs assessment to identify and prioritize the most pressing challenges facing low-income residents in Burlington County. As a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing poverty and promoting self-sufficiency, BCAP regularly evaluates community conditions to guide programming, allocate resources effectively, and advocate for systemic change.

The 2025 assessment revealed three critical areas of need: **housing, food security, and childcare.**

- **Housing** continues to be the most urgent concern. Rising rental costs, limited availability of affordable units, and barriers to stable housing have left many families vulnerable to displacement or homelessness. Residents report long waitlists for assistance and a lack of transitional and emergency housing options.
- **Food insecurity** remains widespread, exacerbated by inflation and the expiration of pandemic-related support programs. Many households rely on food pantries and supplemental nutrition programs but still struggle to maintain consistent access to nutritious meals.
- **Childcare** has emerged as a significant barrier to employment and economic mobility. Families face high costs, limited availability of quality providers, and inflexible hours that do not align with work schedules. The lack of accessible childcare limits parents' ability to pursue job opportunities or education.

BCAP will use the findings of this needs assessment to strengthen its service delivery, expand partnerships, and advocate for policies that address these core challenges. As always, BCAP remains committed to empowering individuals and families, fostering community resilience, and working toward a more equitable Burlington County.

Introduction

Burlington Community Action Partnership (BCAP) Community Needs Assessment

The Burlington Community Action Partnership (BCAP) is dedicated to serving low-income individuals and families throughout Burlington County, New Jersey, by providing vital services and support aimed at reducing poverty and promoting long-term stability. In alignment with our mission, BCAP regularly conducts a Community Needs Assessment to ensure our programs are responsive, effective, and informed by the voices and experiences of those we serve.

The purpose of this needs assessment is to identify the most pressing challenges currently facing residents in Burlington County and to guide the strategic planning, program development, and

resource allocation of BCAP. This report provides a data-driven overview of the community's needs and assets, helping us to align our services with the evolving conditions in the region.

Burlington County is one of the largest counties in New Jersey by geographic size, with a population that includes both suburban communities and rural areas. While the county boasts a rich history, strong public institutions, and a diverse economy, many residents continue to face significant barriers to economic security. Pockets of poverty, underemployment, housing instability, and limited access to affordable services persist—particularly among underserved and marginalized populations.

This assessment draws upon quantitative data, community surveys, and stakeholder input to provide a comprehensive picture of the needs facing Burlington County's low-income residents. Key areas of focus include housing, food security, and access to quality childcare—each of which plays a critical role in shaping the health and well-being of individuals and families.

Through this assessment, BCAP reaffirms its commitment to community-driven solutions and equitable service delivery as we work to create a more just and supportive Burlington County for all.

Methodology

Burlington Community Action Partnership (BCAP) Community Needs Assessment

To ensure that the Burlington Community Action Partnership's (BCAP) services remain aligned with the evolving needs of the community, a mixed-method data collection approach was used for this needs assessment. The primary objective was to gather direct input from residents across Burlington County, particularly those who are low-income or utilize BCAP services.

Data Collection Methods

The needs assessment data was collected using two main methods:

1. Online Survey

An electronic survey was developed using SurveyMonkey, designed to capture information on key areas such as housing, food access, childcare, and overall well-being. The survey included a mix of multiple-choice, Likert-scale, and open-ended questions to allow for both quantitative and qualitative insights. The survey link was distributed via email to current and past BCAP clients. In addition, BCAP staff actively encouraged clients to complete the survey by providing the link during interactions and appointments.

2. In-Person Responses (Walk-Ins)

To ensure accessibility for individuals without regular internet access, paper copies of the survey were made available at BCAP offices. Walk-in clients were invited to participate in the survey on-site, and staff were available to assist with completing the forms as needed. These in-person responses helped ensure broader participation from individuals who might be underserved by digital outreach efforts.

Participant Engagement

Participation was voluntary and anonymous to encourage honest and open responses. Clients were informed that the survey would be used to improve programs and services and that their feedback was essential in shaping future initiatives.

Data Analysis

Survey responses were compiled and analyzed to identify trends, common concerns, and priority needs. Both quantitative data (such as frequency and percentage distributions) and qualitative feedback (open-ended comments) were reviewed to provide a well-rounded understanding of community challenges.

By combining digital and in-person engagement strategies, BCAP aimed to capture a diverse range of voices from across Burlington County, resulting in a more inclusive and accurate picture of community needs.

Demographics and Population Profile Burlington County, New Jersey

Burlington County is the largest county in New Jersey by land area and is in the southwestern region of the state. It is home to a diverse population that includes suburban neighborhoods, rural communities, and small urban centers. As of the most recent U.S. Census data, Burlington County has a population of approximately **460,000 residents**.

Population Composition

- **Race and Ethnicity:**
 - White (non-Hispanic): ~63%
 - Black or African American: ~21%
 - Hispanic or Latino (of any race): ~9%
 - Asian: ~6%
 - Two or more races or other: ~1%
- **Age Distribution:**
 - Under 18 years: ~21%
 - 18 to 64 years: ~61%
 - 65 years and older: ~18%

This age range reflects a need for a range of services—from early childhood education and youth programs to senior support services.

Economic Indicators

- **Median Household Income:** Approximately **\$91,000**, although this figure varies widely across different municipalities and ZIP codes.
- **Poverty Rate:** Approximately **8%** of residents live below the federal poverty level. However, in certain communities within the county, the poverty rate is significantly higher.

- **Unemployment Rate:** Fluctuates seasonally but has remained around **4–5%**, with underemployment and wage disparities continuing to impact many families.

Housing and Living Conditions

- Burlington County has a mix of homeowners and renters, with around **28% of residents renting** their homes.
- Housing cost burden remains a critical issue, with many households spending more than 30% of their income on housing.
- There is limited availability of affordable housing and waiting lists for public housing or rental assistance programs are often long.

Family and Child Demographics

- A significant portion of households with children are single-parent families, particularly single mothers.
- Many families face challenges with accessing affordable and quality child care, a trend that is reflected in the findings of this needs assessment.

Diversity and Special Populations

- Burlington County is home to several military-connected families due to the presence of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.
- There is also a growing population of non-English-speaking households, especially among Hispanic/Latino and Asian communities, highlighting the need for culturally responsive services and language accessibility.

Data Section

- See attached charts for detailed data

Recommendations

- Based on the findings of the 2025 Community Needs Assessment and aligned with the Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) goals, the following recommendations are proposed to address the most pressing issues faced by low-income residents of Burlington County:

Affordable Housing

With over 33% of respondents reporting spending 60% or more of their income on housing and the majority citing affordability, quality, and stability as top concerns, BCAP is expanding efforts to preserve and develop affordable housing options. This includes strengthening homeless prevention programs, hosting Housing Access Workshops, and collaborating with housing authorities and legal aid providers. These actions align with ROMA Goals 1, 2, and 6, focusing on helping low-income individuals achieve self-

sufficiency, promoting community revitalization, and increasing agency capacity through partnerships.

Food Security

More than 46% of households reported difficulty accessing enough food, with cost and limited availability as the main barriers. BCAP will continue and scale initiatives like the Mobile Food Pantry, the Nourish Burlington Campaign, and the JBMDL Food Security Taskforce to improve food access and nutrition, particularly in underserved areas. These efforts support ROMA Goals 2, 4, and 6 by fostering family stability and increasing access to emergency and community resources.

Child Care Access

Nearly 60% of respondents with children indicated that they lacked access to affordable, reliable childcare, which restricts their ability to work or pursue education. BCAP will enhance Child Care Navigation services, increase awareness of subsidy programs, and work closely with local providers to expand access. These strategies are tied to ROMA Goals 1, 2, and 6 and will directly support economic mobility for parents and guardians.

Cross-Cutting Recommendations

In addition to these targeted strategies, BCAP is prioritizing inclusive community engagement, interagency collaboration, and policy advocacy. Hosting regular listening sessions, maintaining an active Community Advisory Council, and participating in coalitions at the state and local levels will ensure that solutions remain community-informed and sustainable over time. These strategies reflect ROMA Goals 3, 4, and 5: strengthening community partnerships, increasing civic engagement, and improving conditions for vulnerable populations.

Summary of ROMA-Aligned Recommendations

Priority Area	BCAP Direct Action	ROMA Goal Alignment	Key NPIs/Outcomes
Housing	Administration, workshops, housing development	Goals 1, 2, 6	2.1C, 6.2C, 6.4E
Food Security	Mobile pantry, SNAP support	Goals 2, 4, 6	6.2A, 6.4F, 2.3

Child Care	Navigation, subsidy support	Goals 1, 2, 6	6.3C/D, 6.4B
Cross-Cutting	Community voice, partnerships, advocacy	Goals 3, 4, 5	2.3, 3.2, 4.1, 5.1

Conclusion

- The 2025 BCAP Community Needs Assessment reaffirms our organization's mission to respond to the evolving challenges faced by low-income families in Burlington County. Through survey data, community engagement, and collaboration with stakeholders, BCAP has identified housing, food security, and childcare as the top concerns affecting residents' well-being and self-sufficiency. These needs reflect both systemic inequities and local service gaps that must be addressed through coordinated action, innovative programming, and policy change.

By aligning its strategies with the national ROMA goals and performance indicators, BCAP will continue to implement data-driven, community-informed solutions that empower families, strengthen partnerships, and promote equitable access to opportunity. With ongoing support from our community partners and stakeholders and meaningful collaboration across sectors, BCAP remains committed to building a resilient Burlington County where all residents—regardless of income or background—have the resources and support they need to thrive.