

SANGAMON COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

2017 NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT



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<http://co.sangamon.il.us/departments/a-c/community-resources>



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2017 Community Needs Assessment
to inform the Community Resources 2018 Community Action Plan

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I. Key Findings and Recommendations

Key Findings: At its core, poverty exists because of the need for stabilizing basic services, mental health services, affordable housing, asset accumulation, lack of employment and education and training. In Sangamon County, data collected from the 2017 SCCR Interagency Needs Assessment from over 4,507 low-income households (Appendix 3) and 248 respondents for the 2017 Community Needs Assessment households (Appendix 2) revealed the greatest needs as finding a full-time job, getting financial assistance to complete education, GED test assistance, budgeting/managing money/credit repair, finding affordable housing, obtaining food, dental care, rental assistance, finding affordable childcare, learning how to set goals, helping children cope with stress and depression, financial assistance for purchasing a car or car repairs, affordable health insurance, utility assistance and buying paper products not covered by SNAP. Interestingly, older individuals would like help learning how to use a computer. Recent violence in our city begs for activities for at-risk youth. And due to the closing of a re-entry program, re-entry and re-unification services are needed for formerly incarcerated individuals. Many of these needs are basic (stabilizing) while others increase self-sufficiency. It is also important to note that while rendering services, the 2016-17 Customer Service reports from 4303 respondents show that the overall rating of the SCCR agency and services as 95% as excellent on the average and the balance of 5% as very good (Appendix 5). Good customer service from trained staff can inspire customers to move forward and become less reliant on social services.

2017 Inter-Agency Needs Assessment Highlights 4,507 Respondents

- The top 3 sources of family income were 32.2% Employment Only, 25.5% SSI Disability and 24.7% Social Security.
- Employment: Age groups were very similar in their needs to
 1. Find a permanent job to support my family
 2. Knowing what jobs are available
 3. Getting an education for the job that I want
 4. Getting training for the job I want
- Top 5 education needs in all age groups were:
 1. Obtaining a GED
 2. Obtaining a 2-yr college degree
 3. Obtaining a 4-year college degree
 4. Getting financial assistance to complete my education
 5. Choosing a career
- More people in the 45-54 age group wanted to learn how to use a computer by 10%
- Education levels varied with 43% possessing a HS education or GED, 21% were non-graduates and 32% having some secondary schooling or college degrees.

- Family Type: 46% single parent female, 3% single parent male, 34% single person and 10% two-parent household.
- Housing: 82% Rent, 17% Own
- Housing and Age Groups:
 1. Finding Affordable Housing that fit my family's needs
 2. Making my home more energy efficient
 3. Qualifying for a loan to buy a home (esp. ages 24-44)
 4. Getting financial assistance with rent payments
- Financial Issues for Single Parents: 30% Budgeting and managing money, 15% said solving utility or telephone issues and 12% said understanding credit scores and solving credit card problems. 7% said opening a savings or checking account.
- Food and Nutrition and Single Parents:
 1. Getting food from food pantries (29%)
 2. Having enough food at home (18%)
 3. Learning how to shop and cook for healthy eating (14%)
 4. Learning how to stretch my food dollar (13%)
- Child Care for Single Parents:

The top needs were:

 1. Finding affordable child care (9%)
 2. Finding child care in a convenient location (9%)
 3. Getting financial assistance with child care costs (8%)
 4. Getting financial assistance with school supplies (13%)
- Parenting and Family Support and Family Type
 1. Learning how to help my children cope with stress, depression, or emotional issues (24%)
 2. Learning how to set goals and plan for my family (21%)
 3. Learning how to communicate and deal with my teenage children (20%)
 4. Learning how to discipline my children more effectively (18%)
- Transportation and Family Type

All three type of households share a very similar transportation need pattern. Their top needs were:

 1. Having access to public transportation (not for two parent households)
 2. Having dependable transportation to and from work
 3. Getting financial assistance to buy a dependable car
 4. Getting financial assistance to make car repairs
 5. Getting financial assistance to buy car insurance

- Health and single parent households and households with disabled members share a very similar need pattern. Their top health needs were:
 1. Having affordable dental insurance
 2. Having affordable health insurance
 3. Having dental care available to my community
 4. Having health care available to my community
 5. Dealing with stress, depression, or anxiety

It is worth mentioning that both groups had high needs in “dealing with stress, depression, or anxiety.” This signals both types of households were struggling in helping help hands with their daily lives.

- **Basic Needs**

This section discusses the basic needs among households with adults 24 years old and above. Table 14 shows that the four age groups, 24-44, 45-54, 55-69, and 70+ shared a common basic need pattern. Their top needs were:

1. Getting Financial Assistance with my Utility Bills (Heating, Electric, and/or Water)
2. Getting Basic Furniture, Appliances, or House Wares
3. Getting Personal Care Items such as Soap, Diapers, Toilet Paper, etc.
4. Having a Reliable Phone (relatively less important for the Age 70+ group)
5. Managing Medications (relatively less important for the Age 24-44 group)

2017 Community Needs Assessment Results– 248 respondents

Thank you to assisting agencies which included: Helping Hands, Springfield Urban League, Contact Ministries, Kumler Outreach Ministries, Fishes and Loaves Outreach Ministries, SC Public Health, Capital Township, Springfield Housing Authority, Central Counties Health Centers, and the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services.

- **Employment:** 52% would like to find a permanent job to support their family, 46% of respondents said they need help knowing what jobs are available, further, 43% said they need an education for the job they want and 29% said they need training for the job they want.
- **Education:** 39.6% said the highest need for education was getting financial assistance to complete my education, 35% said obtaining a GED or H.S. diploma, 31% said obtaining a 2-year degree, 30% said choosing a career and 25% said learning how to use a computer.
- **Financial and Legal Issues:** 52% said they need assistance with budgeting and credit, 36% said they need financial help with rent payments, 36% said qualifying for a loan to buy a home and 33% said getting financial assistance with a down payment or closing costs. 33% also said they need help with rent deposits.

- **Food and Nutrition:** 44% need help getting food from food pantries, 42.7% would like help learning how to stretch their dollar, 41% would like to learn how to shop and cook for healthy eating and 40% would like to have more food at home.
- 55% have children under 18 years in their homes.
- **Child Care and Child Development:** Finding affordable childcare (40%), getting financial assistance for school supplies (38%), finding childcare in a convenient location (36%), getting financial assistance with school fees (31%), financial assistance with school or club activities (31%), getting financial assistance with childcare costs (29%).
- **Parenting and Family Support:** 49% of parents would like to learn how to set goals and plan for their family, 43% would like to learn to help their children cope with stress, depression or emotional issues, 42% would like to learn how to more effectively discipline their children, 41% would like to learn how to communicate and deal with teenage children. Last, 31% said the need to learn how to deal with their children's bullying or violent behavior.
- **Transportation:** 44% need help with financial assistance to buy a dependable car, 38% have access to public transportation, 38% each need help with both car repairs, 37% have trouble with dependable transportation to and from work, and 35% have trouble getting a driver's license.
- **Health needs include:** affordable health insurance (58%), affordable dental insurance (51%) dealing with stress, anxiety and depression (36%), finding a dentist to accept Medicaid (32%)
- **Basic Needs include:** getting basic furniture, appliances (63%) financial assistance with utility bills (44%), getting clothes and shoes (42%), getting personal care items like soap, diapers, toilet paper (39%), and access to the internet (36%).
- **In the last 12 months, families faced these needs:** past due rent, finding a job, transportation, auto accident, car broke down, child taken away, house fire.
- **Improvement you would like to see in your neighborhood:** something for grown kids to do, roads, reduction in violence and crime, garbage, housing for homeless, ex-convicts getting mental health assistance, blighted properties, affordable housing, pot holes repaired, race tolerance, drug activity.
- **Sources of household income:** Employment 38%, No income 23%, TANF 22%, Social Security 17%, SSI 14%.
- **Has your household income changed in the last 12 months?:** No change 52%, decreased 32%, increased 16%.
- **How did you learn about our agency:** Family or friend 32%, other social service agency 26%, current or former client 18%, a state agency 11%, healthcare provider 8%, website 5%

- **What services have you received in the last 12 months?:** Energy Assistance (40%), rent assistance (18%), Medication assistance (18%), food boxes (16%), case management (14%), housing counseling (14%), referrals to other agencies (13%).
- **If you know of anyone with an incarcerated adult in their family, do they ever talk about particular concerns that could be addressed through:** Job skills training (51%), transportation assistance (45%), stress relief (44%), financial assistance (37%)
- **What do you think about SCRDC in the following areas :**
 1. Quality of service: Excellent (40.84%), Above Average (24.08%), Good (32.4%)
 2. Effective in working with others in the Community: Excellent (39.37%), Above Average (25.13%), Good (31.94%)
 3. Visibility/Leadership: Excellent (39.69%), Above Average (22.61%), Average (33.51).
 4. Publicity the agency receives for good work: Excellent (38.03%), Above Average (24%), Average (32.81)
 5. Leadership in advocating for community issues: Excellent (36.98%), Above average (24.48%), Average (32.81%)

Stakeholder survey results (Tab 6) purport that in order; lack of education, the need for childcare, available jobs, transportation, the need for better communication skills were the barriers people have getting or keeping a full-time living wage job. Most stakeholders also believe that there are an insufficient number of childcare programs available, especially in the overnight hours, an insufficient number of pre-school programs and after school programs available as well.

Regarding youth services, most stakeholders opined that assistance needed in rank order were mentoring/leadership/volunteering, substance abuse/tobacco, after school supervision and birth control with sexually transmitted diseases fifth.

Whether they believe our schools meet the educational needs of the children they serve, 40% said “in some cases”, 24% said “in most cases” and 10% said “in a few cases”. Over 50% believe we have adequate levels of non-medical emergency services in our community, but not enough adequate dental services or wellness programs. Interestingly, 57.6% believe there are adequate levels of transportation available. Regarding homeless shelters, most thought there were not an adequate number of emergency shelters (58.8%) and that only some homes were in good repair (57.65), not most homes.

The **10 greatest challenges** stakeholders felt facing our low-income families and individuals were in order:

1. Education
2. Substance Abuse
3. Job training
4. Budgeting
5. Childcare
6. Housing
7. Living wage employment
8. Financial literacy/planning

9. Mental health services
10. Transportation

The 10 areas stakeholders believe low-income families and individuals need assistance with in order to **achieve or maintain self-sufficiency** include:

1. Employment
2. Childcare
3. Job Training
4. Education
5. Transportation
6. Housing
7. Literacy
8. Substance Abuse Treatment
9. Family Planning
10. Mental Health

In order for seniors to remain in their homes, stakeholders selected the following needs in priority order:

1. Home repairs
2. Managing medications
3. Yardwork/snow removal
4. Access to transportation
5. Grocery shopping
6. Financial Assistance
7. Grocery shopping
8. Utility costs
9. Housework
10. Preparing meals

What do you believe people with low incomes need more information about:

1. Budgeting or money management issues
2. Checking and savings accounts
3. Landlord/tenant issues
4. Credit repair
5. Payday loans
6. Home energy/utility cost issues
7. Credit card debt
8. Car title loans, not a car purchase loan
9. Filing tax returns/EITC
10. Rent reimbursement claims

What would Stakeholders like to improve in our community?

Transportation, mental health services, substance abuse, job training, drug testing for eligibility for assistance, graduated entitlements to encourage employment, more jobs, more services to the working poor, violence, crime, homelessness, hunger, parental involvement in our schools, condemned houses, childcare, financial literacy, whole community to address issues, new businesses, dental services, vision services.

Focus Groups

To enhance the data collection process further and add qualitative data, Community Resources added three focus groups held at the Contact Ministries shelter for women and children for both the emergency shelter customers and second floor residents and Lanphier High School. At Contact Ministries, most of the participants were engaged immediately in the process. Two participants were reticent to join the group conversation but did engage when asked direct questions by the facilitator. There were lively discussions about immediate and basic needs. Much of this focused on:

- Rent assistance
- Shelter access for couples
- Medical assistance, especially prescriptions and eyeglasses and no co-pays
- Childcare
- Employment supports
- Transportation
- Budgeting and money management
- Emotional support and the need for patience
- Assistance for recently released ex-offenders

A common thread throughout all of the discussions was that strong faith was needed to endure their collective hardships and optimism about the future. There was a clear desire to live independently and a sense of gratitude about access to the shelter. Given the sense of guarded optimism, there was also sense of despair; expressed as a deep loneliness and sense of failure within some of the participants. Many were frustrated by lack of access to support systems – articulated as access and availability are not convenient or welcoming, i.e. hours of operation, location and attitudes.

Much of the conversation brings to mind Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and that the needs expressed fall into all of the categories. As Maslow's models teaches us, the foundational needs of breathing, food, water, sleep must be met first before moving on to safety, and then belonging to esteem and finally, self-actualization. Meeting the basic needs of physical and safety are critical to moving forward.



For this group, outcomes yielded the predominant theme as the fulfillment of basic needs with a connection to long-term supportive systems and expressed as Housing, Transportation, Childcare, Jobs, Food and Healthcare. Our focus group facilitator, Christine Westerlund, noted in the observations that there “was a noticeable connection to the desire to gain stability and independence, much of which surfaced during the “Dream/future” question. A long-term solution is the development or connection to a mentoring/coaching program that would intensively work with CM clients to move towards their personal goals. Of course, that would take funding, collaboration and commitment to ensure programmatic success. As Dr. Donna Beegle reminds us; “There is no “magic fix” for the complexities of poverty. The key to sustainable change lies in our ability to challenge the status quo and create a paradigm for working with people in poverty that is inclusive, compassionate, supportive and long term. The need for motivation, encouragement, networking, and role models were consistent talking points in each of the conversations. Several voiced the need for building a network of peers and mentors to help navigate life challenges and provide positive reinforcement.

Overall outcomes of a third focus group held at Lanphier High School for low-income students reflected their desires to Finish school, Go to college (out of town colleges), Get own place, Get a job – higher paying jobs, Make your parents proud (do what asked), Get rid of distractions, Free time, How to find out about programs/resources and the need for Emotional Support.

Data for Sangamon County:

Rate of Poverty

The Community Commons Census Platform report for Sangamon County (Appendix 9) presents a rate of poverty (population below 185% Poverty Level) in Sangamon County of 28.47 compared to Illinois with a percentage of 29.09%. This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status. Children in poverty by race alone present data of 54.5% African American, 35.26% multiple race and 15.03% non-Hispanic White. In addition, teen births are higher than both the Illinois and US rates at 39.8% compared to 35 and 36.6 respectively. For households at 110% of the Poverty Level, there was an increase in 2015 of .7% (30,297 individuals) from 2014 poverty rate of 14.9%.

Regarding education, the Heartland Alliance reported (Appendix 10) the percent of severely rent-burdened households was 25.8 (down from 26.4%) with the mean renter hourly wage of \$10.24 (down from \$10.47) but that the wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment was \$14.94 at 68 hours worked per week. The report further iterates that monthly rent affordable at mean renter wage is \$533 (up from \$502). Last, the food insecurity rate reported was 13.5 % (down .5%) with the child food insecurity rate at 20.5 (down .9% points since last year.)

According to the IL State Board of Education Illinois website in an article from the March, 2016 Springfield Business Journal (appendix 16), while the number of low-income students in Springfield School District #186 remained level, the number of low-income students in the outlying school districts has increased by a significant percentage in the last five years.

Specifically, the number of low-income students in Chatham has increased a whopping 31.5%, from 15% to 22% of the total 4,658 student population in five years. In Rochester, the 40% increase, from nine percent to 15 percent, takes the number there to nearly 350 of the 2,321 district student body. The moderate numbers of low-income students in the smaller districts of Williamsville, Auburn, New Berlin and Pleasant Plains followed the upward trend as well.

Poverty and Health

The Sangamon County 2015 Snapshot Health ranking (Appendix 16) finds Sangamon County ranks 79 of 102 Illinois Counties. It also states Sangamon County is 95 of 102 under Quality of Life Health Outcomes. Sangamon County's overall 80th-place ranking put it behind counties such as Cook (78th), Peoria (66th), Rock Island (54th), McLean (33rd) and Champaign (23rd) but ahead of Macon (86th) and St. Clair (88th).

Poverty and Children

Sangamon County at a Glance (Source: Voices for Illinois Children County 2015 report) (appendix 16)

In Sangamon County, the child poverty rate rose from 13 percent in 1999 to 25% in 2012, compared with a statewide increase from 14 percent to 21 percent. The number of children living in poverty increased 87 percent from 1999-2012, compared with a 39 percent increase statewide. In 2012, 12.5 children were in deep poverty (living below 50 percent of the federal poverty level which equals a household income of \$11,525 for a family of four), compared with 9 percent statewide. Of the children living in poverty in Sangamon County in 2011, 47 percent were white, 38 percent were black and 4 percent were Hispanic.

Substantiated cases of abuse and neglect increased by 42 percent between 2006 and 2014, compared with 27 percent statewide. The average rate of abuse and neglect was 17.9 per 1,000 children, compared to 9.3 per 1,000 statewide.

In 2013, 23 percent of households with children received benefits from the federal Supplemental Nutrition Program, formerly known as food stamps, compared with 21 percent statewide. More than 16,000 households benefitted from the federal earned income tax credit in tax year 2012, representing 17 percent of tax filers in Sangamon County. Children's enrollment in Medicaid and related programs increased 30 percent between 2005 and 2013, compared to 42 percent statewide.

The report cites the effects of past cuts to state funding have had on programs intended to mitigate the effects of poverty. The report warned that possible future cuts would make it more likely for them to slip into poverty if they are not below the poverty level now.

Current State of Child Poverty in the U.S. (2012) (appendix in 2017 CAP):

According to the Census Bureau data, between 2007 and 2012, just 17 of the nation's more than 3,100 counties saw poverty decline in a statistically significant way among children ages 5-17. Poverty for that age group rose in 964 counties from 2007 to 2012.

Determining the exact number of children living in poverty can depend on what Census calculation you go by. More than 16 million children, or roughly one in five, were living in poverty in 2011, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's *official poverty measure*, higher than any other age group.

The Census Bureau's official figures fail to paint a complete picture, though. The formula the government uses to calculate poverty was designed in the 1960's and does not account for expenses that are necessary to even hold a job such as transportation costs and child care. The formula does not account for government programs such as food stamps or the Earned Income Tax Credit. When the Census Bureau uses its supplemental rate formula, the number of children found to be living in poverty falls to 13.4 million.

The nation's poorest kids primarily live in households headed by a single female. Nearly half of all children with a single mother – 47.6 percent – live in poverty. Indeed, the children of single mothers experience poverty at a rate that is more than four times higher than kids in married-couple families.

The longer a child lives in poverty, the tougher it can be for them to climb out later in life. According to an analysis by Columbia University's National Center for Children in Poverty, 45 percent of people who spent at least half of their childhood in poverty were poor at age 35. Among those who spent less than half of their childhood in poverty, just 8 percent were poor at age 35.

In Sangamon County, children in poverty in 2000 were 6,646 or 14.3 percent while in 2015 this figure was 10,859 or 24.2 percent, an increase of 9.9%. The national increase was less at 21.7 percent and the Illinois rate was also less at 20.3 percent.

Students participating in the free and reduced lunch program in 2014 was 46.41 percent according to the Community Commons Report (Appendix 9), while 17.2 percent of county households received SNAP in 2015, up from 17.1 percent of county households who received SNAP the year before. Food insecurity data showed 13.55percent (Appendix 10) with a child food insecurity rate of 21.35 percent up from 18.3 percent.

The number and percentage of households in poverty at 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline is 28.47 percent (55,445 people and 18,083 of them are children). Of female householders with children, 66.9% of them are in poverty

The rate of Sangamon County seniors in poverty is 6.1% or 1,753 of a total of 28,648 seniors in the county. Nationally, the rate is 9.4 percent and state-wide is 8.6 percent.

In summary, as in the 2017 Needs Assessment Report, poverty has increased, wages are too low to afford safe, affordable housing unless an abundance of hours are worked to meet the

price of monthly rent. As a result, the domino effect brings about food insecurity, especially for children and seniors. Utility and dental costs also continue to add on-going burdens for working families. And although the rate of unemployment has dropped, additional jobs suitable for many job seekers still have not been created to fill in for the jobs that no longer exist. Jobs that are available require education and training that many individuals cannot afford the training for or are not eligible for free training.

Poverty and Homelessness

The Springfield/Sangamon County Continuum of Care Homeless Population Point in Time Estimate for 2017 (Appendix 13) concluded that there were 171 homeless individuals (down from 261 in 2016) that on January 31, 2017, 23 were chronically homeless. Other subpopulations in this group include adults with serious mental illness (56), adults with a substance abuse disorder (59), adults with HIV/AIDS (4) and victims of domestic violence (38). Demographically, 102 were Caucasian and 62 were African American. Children under age 18 accounted for 39 of the total, 29 of which lived in transitional shelter and 10 in emergency shelter. There were 8 unaccompanied youth in the total as well.

Poverty and Employment

Labor force and unemployment data for Sangamon County for 2017 is provided in Appendix 11 and within Community Commons Platform US Census Data (Appendix 9). Overall, the report area experienced an average of 5.0 percent unemployment rate in February, 2017 compared to 5.7 in February, 2016. There were an estimated 5,600 unemployed people in the labor force in February, 2017. The increase of 1,200 jobs in the sectors of Professional and Business Services and declines were in Leisure and Hospitality (-400), retail trade (-100).

Poverty and Housing

Fourteen of 41 landlords responded to the annual agency Landlord survey (appendix 16) for 49 tenants who received rental assistance in the last 12 months. The total number of tenants still renting from landlords who responded was 78.5%. When asked if there was any trouble with rent being paid on time, 60% said yes. As to whether the renter had also used other agencies for assistance, landlords said that 84.6% had not. On the issue of whether rent assistance overall had helped their program, 85.7% said yes, that it had. Comments were both positive if renters made an effort to pay but negative if they did not.

Poverty and Education

According to the Community commons Platform Report (appendix 9) those without a high school diploma increased to 7.89% (7.54 percent in 2014) and 41% had an Associate's degree or higher. The Heartland Alliance Report (Appendix 10), reported the percentage of the population with a Bachelor's degree is 20 percent.

The 2017 Graduation Data Summary Report for Springfield School District #186 (Appendix 16) shows that the high school graduation rate students was 77 percent up from 74 percent last year. Conversely, Sangamon County High School graduation rates were much higher at between 80 and 98 percent.

Summary and Recommendations

In summary, poverty has increased, but significantly impacted children 0-17 more than any other age group. Further wages are too low to afford safe, affordable housing unless an abundance of hours are worked to meet the price of monthly rent. As a result, the domino effect brings about food insecurity, especially for children and seniors. Utilities also continue to add great and on-going burdens for working families. And although the rate of unemployment has dropped, additional jobs suitable for many job seekers still have not been created to fill in for the jobs that no longer exist. Jobs that are available require education and training that many individuals cannot afford the training for or are not eligible for free training. Additionally, there are many formerly incarcerated individuals re-joining our community with little to no resources.

So what is the most effective way to address the needs in the community with existing services and funds in our community as a whole? In our county at-large, the majority of SCCR participants are working or on social security or disability but struggling to meet basic needs. There is less unemployment by 1% than the state average and Sangamon County is ranked 13th of 102 counties (a lower ranking indicates lower unemployment). Even so, there is a high number of cost-burdened renters. Also, access to transportation is a significant need for single parents due to few resources to help pay for car repair and car insurance. Naturally, a lack of income makes it difficult to meet household needs, childcare, and mental health issues. This year, there has also been a significant rise in the level of youth violence.

Universal thinking is that the best way to increase income is through employment. However, the same thinking does not take into consideration the fact that low-income families in our county lack information about careers in high-growth employment sectors. So getting a job is the goal but there is no path to improve on that job. Ex-offenders have an even harder time finding employment.

Recommendations for mitigating the causes and conditions of poverty in our county include: educating the community about medical sector career pathways, focusing bundled on single-parent households who face even more challenges than other low-income families; innovative/experimental transportation projects to fill current gaps in transportation services and evidence-based youth program throughout the year.

The following recommendations for Community Resources 2018 programming are a result of all qualitative and quantitative data collected and the 2017-20 Strategic Plan sessions. Both of these activities have informed the 2018 Community Action Plan and are presented to provide for maximum effectiveness and efficient use of CSBG funding. Although this service delivery model may yield services to fewer families with CSBG funds, it identifies, supports, and

counsels families in greatest need and who are self-determined to do the work to become stable and/or more self-sufficient and therefore, become less dependent on public benefits.

Demographics considered in the planning process of programs offered in Sangamon County include the need for continued, strong support of families with children, ages 0-17, with emphasis on households headed by a single female and seniors living on fixed incomes. Services to be provided will again include education to employment opportunities (C.N.A. personal care assistant and scholarship awards in high-growth employment areas). *A stronger referral partnership with the Goodwill Career Center will better ensure our clients receive essential tools needed to find and keep a job.* Further, the continuation of GED assistance and financial literacy with emphasis on credit coaching for adults continues to be evident to help families move forward. *Carrollton Bank will train the Family Support Specialist (FSS) staff to credit coach customers individually who are in need of this service.*

For housing assistance, our goal for 2018 is to offer first-time homebuyer workshops to clients enrolled in the Habitat for Humanity program, Nehemiah Housing Expansion and any other income eligible customer in partnership with HUD housing counselors and Bank of Springfield.

Tuition for after school and summer programs for at-risk youth will be offered to address the uptick in youth violence in addition to current services including summer recreation program tuition assistance, school uniform assistance, summer school tuition. In 2018, a mini-food pantry in the agency for children to be used by CSBG eligible customers in the summer months, on Fridays for the weekend and during school breaks will ensure they are getting health foods when not in school as a service in the CSBG bundle of services.

For seniors, food boxes for 50 seniors will also continue in partnership with Humphrey's Food Market and Senior Services. *For 2018, a separate abbreviated financial literacy workshop will be required for seniors who would like \$50 toward a good faith effort assistance (GFE) of \$75.00.*

To continue to increase enrollment of at-risk families in the FCD case management program, rent and employment support clients will be required to attend a voluntary 3- hour workshop, covering topics indicated on both interagency and community needs assessments including mental health topics such as tools to become resilient, how to be a better communicator, helping children cope with depression and anxiety, conscious discipline, and how to set goals and reach them for yourself and your family. Clients who cannot attend due to work, need only to bring in their work schedule for verification to be excused. All participants who complete the course will take a pre and post-test, receive a \$30.00 gift card and continue to work with a Family Support Specialist to set goals for themselves to work toward with a FSS. *After the FCD participant agreement has been signed in the workshop and goals set, for participants who receive a \$500-\$600 rent/employment supports benefit and fail to work toward goals set for themselves with or without a Family Support Specialist, each will be sent a letter letting them know that should they return for services after 24 months, the department will need verification of moving toward self-sufficiency and/or reaching the goals they set before. If verification cannot be provided, the applicant will be advised that*

until such time they reach goal(s) set to reduce dependency on public benefit that they are not eligible for rent/employment support benefits.

Due to the lack of services for formerly incarcerated individuals, our agency has an opportunity to partner with an upstart organization called Shifting Into New Gear (SING) to provide space for group meetings and intakes as well as work together to offer wrap-around services like transportation with the assistance of the organization's case manager services. SING members will also attend financial literacy workshops in SCDCR to establish checking and savings accounts as well as establishment of credit.

To meet ROMA Goal 3, "People with low incomes are engaged and active in building opportunities in communities", SCDCR will continue to partner with the Faith Coalition for the Common Good (FCCG) to identify low-income individuals in the community who are self-determined to learn leadership and to advocate to community leaders around issues important to them. These individuals will attend leadership training provided by the FCCG.

Last, due to limited coverage under Medicaid and lack of dentists who will accept Medicaid, dental and medication assistance will also continue to be available at the agency on a limited basis.

II. Introduction and Methodology:

Assessment and Planning Process, Assessment Protocol

In developing the (PY) 2017 Community Needs Assessment/and 2018 Community Action Plan, Community Resources conducted, throughout the year, an in-house customer assessment to determine community needs. We used a variety of approaches to gain input from staff and stakeholders including an annual stakeholder survey. Because the stakeholder survey seeks qualitative data and, therefore, takes more time to complete, the rate of return from stakeholders did not meet our expectations. Even so, responses were reviewed and analyzed (see Key Findings section).

Strategic Planning

The 2017 Strategic Planning update was held on July 14 and 15 and included representatives of the CSBG Advisory Council, direct service staff, senior staff and the department director. The Strategic Planning Committee met for 9 hours total with a ROMA certified facilitator who was responsible for:

- Providing leadership, direction, and oversight for the strategic planning process and ensuring integration of various elements that go into the plan.
- Creating a planning design that ensured all stakeholders were included in a meaningful way in articulating needs, goals, and strategies.

- Developing timelines and realistic expectations for completion of tasks by this committee and ensuring that work was completed in a timely way.
- Analyzing needs assessment data.
- Making recommendations to the CSBG Advisory Council regarding priorities, goals, and strategies for the next three years of the agency's development, as well as how progress toward the goals set out in the plan should be monitored.
- Ensuring that the goals and strategies presented to the Council for approval were consistent with the agency's mission, approach, and values, as well as with the needs of the community.
- Ensuring that the planning process and outcomes were consistent with the expectations of the U.S. Office of Community Services and with the National Organizational Performance Standards and the format of the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) system.

Other Data and Reports used in the Community Needs Assessment Report:

- Utilizing a Strength-Based Approach to ROMA throughout the CAA. This publication was created by the National Association of Community Action Agencies – Community Action Partnership, in the performance of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services Grant Number 90ET0428 (Appendix 17)
- September, 2016 – June 30, 2017 Inter-Agency Customer Needs Assessment and Demographics, (Appendix 3)
- September, 2016 – June 30, 2017 Inter-Agency Customer Service Report Results. (Appendix 5)
- 2016 Information Survey (IS) Section G Report (Appendix 8)
- Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment Report (2015) from the Community Commons Platform courtesy of the Community Action Partnership. (Appendix 9)
- 2017 Heartland Alliance Report on Illinois Poverty: Sangamon County (Appendix 10)
- 2017 IDES Employment Report (Appendix 11)
- 2016 County Health Rankings Snapshot Report (Appendix 12)
- Springfield/Sangamon County 2017 Continuum of Care Homeless Populations: Point in Time (PIT) Estimates (Appendix 13)
- Sangamon County 2014 Regional Comprehensive Plan: published by the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission. (Appendix 18 online)

- 2017 Sangamon County Citizens Survey (Appendix 19 online)
- United Way 2-1-1 Report, January-June, 2017 (Appendix 14)
- 2010 Census Analysis for Population, Age, Households, Race, Housing, Education and Income. Springfield –Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission. (Appendix 20 online)
- 2015 Community Health Needs Assessment, Memorial Health System (Appendix 21 online)
- Map the Meal Gap, Overall Food Insecurity in Illinois by County in 2015 (Appendix 15)
- 2016 Child Care Profile, Sangamon County, Community Child Care Connections, Inc. (Appendix 16)
- 2017 Sangamon County Graduation Rates, Illinois Report Card (Appendix 16)

C. Qualitative Data

Community Stakeholder/Board Member feedback

Methodology: Community stakeholders consist of three groups: partners, board/council members and community leaders. Partners are institutions with which SCDCR has a partnership relationship relative to service delivery or community engagement initiatives. Board members are all county board members, oversight committee members of the county board and the CSBG Advisory Committee. (Results located in Tab 6.) Community leaders are individuals in the community with a high-level knowledge of issues relative to particular subject areas (such as crime, education, politics, the faith community, health, etc). Because a specific individual or institution could belong to more than one of these groups, it is critical to ensure that no duplication occurs.

- a) Is our community better, worse or the same than 1 year ago?
- b) What do you think it would take to substantially reduce poverty in our community?
- c) What do you think are our community's most valuable resources?
- d) What are some positive things happening in our community?
- e) What are some challenges facing our community?
- f) What services are missing in our community that you think need to be added?
- g) What do you know about the Sangamon County Department of Community Resources (SCDCR)?

Focus Group Methodology

Purpose:

The Sangamon County Department of Community Resources and Springfield Public School District #186 have partnered in multiple projects to provide learning opportunities focused on effective practices for students and families living in poverty to become engaged in learning and life. Much of

this work has been done at a mezzo level, through poverty simulations and Dr. Donna Beegle's work. Other methodologies, such as surveys, often miss the details and insights of those living in poverty. Of the many lessons learned, it is important to have direct conversations with those impacted by poverty and to use those conversations to assess for realistic, practical needs. To facilitate these conversations, focus groups consisting of both students and families will be held to engage and discover needs, attitudes and perspectives. This will inform both SCCR and SPS #186 next steps and future practices.

Process:

A series of focus groups will be hosted at Lanphier High School, assisted by Tracy Deal, MSW, to bring together families and students impacted by poverty. The focus group structure is influenced by World Café, a flexible, easy to use process that fosters collaboration through conversations that matter and driven by powerful, focused yet open-ended questions.

An invitation was sent out to families and students identified by Tracy Deal. Food was provided and staff from SCCR and SPS participated in the gatherings. There was be a minimum of two groups; one focused on families and the other focused on emancipated teens. Questions were crafted to dig deeper into the conversations and were:

- 1) Where are you at? (this can be interpreted as living arrangements, what are you in need of, food, access to services – it is a broader question designed to surface issues and needs to drive the conversation forward. It is an examination of the past)
- 2) What do you need now? (this is an examination of the current status/situation, what is frustrating, what is the immediate need)
- 3) Are the current resources useful? (this is an examination of current systems and where change or redirection is needed)
- 4) What do you believe are the most important services/resources that would be most useful in the future? (this is an examination of possibilities and realities of what could be, both immediate and long-term)
- 5) (Optional or icebreaker) What are your dreams? What does your future look like?

The focus group moderator was Christine Westerlund, Director of Professional Development with the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies. Christine is an experienced facilitator and moderator, having worked with groups across the nation to gain knowledge and insights through the use of the World Café. She is currently working on the Gold Star Trainer credential, through "Communication Across Barriers", Dr. Beegle's organization that promotes deeper understanding and innovative practices to reach low income families. This process will finalize her work on the credential.

The sessions were recorded and notes were taken. The room was set up with 4 to 6 round tables to accommodate up to 24 participants. Each table was set with newsprint/markers and snacks, along with the questions. The rounds of questions were limited to 15 to 20 minutes per question, with participants moving to different tables with each new question. There was be a brief introduction to the purpose and the process. The paper and makers at each table were intentionally placed, to allow for freedom of expression, note taking and doodling. Each event lasted approximately one and one half hours.

Outcomes:

- 1) Gained insight and perspective into the needs of students and families struggling with low income.
- 2) Considered new practices and opportunities to engage with students and families.
- 3) Gained new learnings about the impact of poverty and current program structure.
- 4) Crafted or changed programs to better equip students and families to be successful.
- 5) Use of the voices of students and families to build better services.
- 6) Focus group analysis will inform SCCR’s Community Needs Assessment and Community Action Plan – essential documents that crafts the agency’s response to needs of the community.
- 7) Built a stronger collaboration for SPS #186 and SCCR to meet the needs of the community, through poverty simulations, focus groups and other poverty related activities.

F. Quantitative Data

1. Methodology: Quantitative data was collected from data in reports available as appendices 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.

2. Content & purpose: The content for this section will be developed in cooperation with the programs and departments of the organization. Specifically, the Agency will need to know from each operating unit the following:

What is the population for which you need data (city only, county, region, state, federal? By race, gender, age? By poverty status? Etc.)

SCDCR is currently operating on a planning cycle where FY2017 was the year in which a full Community Assessment was conducted and which will form the basis of a new multi-year Strategic Plan for 2018-2020. With reference to the above components, an Assessment and Assessment Update schedule follows the following structures:

Year 1: Full Assessment 2017	Includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Customer feedback b) Community feedback c) Staff feedback d) Oversight Committee/Advisory Council feedback e) Complete set of quantitative data f) All other relevant data (internal data/reports, etc)
Year 2: Update 2018	Includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Data (from any source) that addresses an issues or need not previously discussed or that has newly emerged b) Follow-up areas from the Year 1 Full Assessment: data or concerns that had been identified as a negative trend or

	<p>“threat” that requires updated information (these will be flagged as such in the Assessment)</p> <p>c) Any news stories or reports that appeared in the intervening year that are relevant to SCDCR’s Assessment and merit inclusion.</p> <p>d) Community feedback – only SCDCR’s partners</p> <p>e) Staff feedback</p>
Year 3: Update 2019	<p>Includes:</p> <p>a) Data (from any source) that addresses an issues or need not previously discussed or that has newly emerged</p> <p>b) Follow-up areas from the Year 2 Update or the Full Assessment: data or concerns that had been identified as a negative trend or “threat” that requires updated information (these will be flagged as such in the Assessment and Year 2 Update)</p> <p>c) Any news stories or reports that appeared in the intervening year that are relevant to SCDCR’s Assessment and merit inclusion.</p> <p>d) Survey of SCDCR’s partners</p> <p>e) Community feedback – only SCDCR’s partners</p> <p>f) Staff feedback</p>

B. Timelines for completion

Although it is impossible to synchronize all agency activities to correspond to an idealized planning calendar, a reasonable calendar follows this rough outline in order to take account of the needs of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG):

SCDCR Community Assessment Timeline	
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute timelines for upcoming fiscal year Assessment activities. • Orient program staff to current year Assessment activities. • Finalize all surveys: staff, consumer sector, community stakeholder; schedule Board, Policy Council focus groups
February/ June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate all surveys to staff, consumer sector and community stakeholder surveys • Hold focus groups.
April-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather quantitative data; collect outstanding surveys and tabulate.
June-July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Needs Assessment draft containing survey results, qualitative data. • Hold Strategic Planning or Update
August	Prepare Community Action Plan using Needs Assessment
August	Management/staff review of Community Assessment
August-October	Email in August then, present Community Action Plan/Needs Assessment for formal acceptance by CSBG Advisory Council.

September	Board review and approval of Community Assessment
October	Presentation of key findings in Community Assessment at October CSBG Advisory Meeting
November	Review previous-year Assessment process with staff, solicit feedback for improvements
December	Finalize list of data elements for upcoming year Community Assessment/Update

Planning activities in the above table represent activities consistent with revised practice based on the 2015 Organizational Performance Standards and quarterly meeting dates of the CSBG Advisory Council in February, May, July and October of each calendar year.

III. Community Action Agency History and Programs

What is Community Action?

In 1964, The Great Society, as envisioned by President Lyndon Johnson, was a sweeping plan to improve the lives of all Americans, regardless of their circumstances. Inspired by President Kennedy and his New Frontier, Johnson pledged to fulfill his promise of equal opportunity for all by enacting several comprehensive changes within the federal government. In August of that same year, the Economic Opportunity Act was signed into law by President Johnson creating the nationwide Community Action Network.

The War on Poverty

In 1963, shortly before he was assassinated, President Kennedy had asked his economic advisors to draw up some proposals to address the problem of American poverty. Johnson took up this charge after he succeeded Kennedy as President. In Johnson's first State of the Union address on June 8, 1964, he called for an unconditional war to defeat poverty. He expanded and revised the proposals given to Kennedy and developed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The act included a variety of initiatives:

- Head Start
- Job Corps
- Work-Study program for university students
- VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) - a domestic version of the Peace Corps
- Neighborhood Youth Corps
- Basic education and adult job training
- CAPS (Community Action Programs) - CAPS turned out to be the most controversial part of the package, as it proposed the "maximum feasible participation" by poor people themselves to determine what would help them the most. CAPS were a radical departure from how government had run most social reform programs in the past.

The Economic Opportunity Act was innovative legislation, but it received only about \$1 billion to divide among the various programs and remained critically underfunded. By 1966, Congress appropriated \$4 billion for the programs.

The Start of Community Action

Community Action was a bold idea, especially for the federal government. It handed over control to the local level, so that programs were geared specifically for target population needs. This concept, “maximum feasible participation”, represented a new paradigm in the government and many sectors were wary of its innovative ideas. President Johnson selected a member of President Kennedy’s inner circle to head up the newly formed “Office of Economic Opportunity” –Sargent Shriver.

Shriver was head of Peace Corps in the Kennedy administration and married to Kennedy’s sister, Eunice. He had proved himself to be a capable leader and President Johnson admired his abilities. President Johnson, legendary for his acumen in recruiting key personnel, offered the position to Shriver and would not take no for an answer. Shriver was installed as the first head of the OEO in October 11, 1964 and leapt into action.

Unfortunately for Shriver, he simply did not have adequate funding to begin the process of addressing national poverty issues. However, he assembled an impressive team of advisers, including Michael Harrington, author of *The Other America* and began to implement new policies and actions to resolve these issues.

President Johnson signing the Economic Opportunity Act, August 1964



Community Action was modeled after two fairly successful urban renewal projects, one undertaken by the Ford Foundation and the Mobilization for Youth, a program aimed at juvenile delinquency. Inspiration was also taken from the

“Back of the Yards” program in Chicago, which was developed by Saul Alinsky, considered the father of “community development”. It should be noted that Alinsky became very critical of the OEO as it developed. The key component was that low-income citizens played an active role in program design and administration, or “maximum feasible participation”. The Economic Opportunity Act was amended (known as the Green Amendment) in 1967 to mandate the board structure of community action agencies, which complemented the earlier

Quie Amendment which required the tripartite representation, including low-income participation.

In 1981, President Reagan introduced the Block Grant, which dramatically changed the way federal funding was distributed. Programs including Community Action, would now receive funding through the State Office of Community Action/Services and would be under more intense scrutiny than previous administrations. Illinois Community Action now worked more closely with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to implement the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) and worked to build a strong partnership to provide robust services to Illinois' low-income residents.

Over the past several years, federal funding to support the Community Service Block Grant has been challenged. President George W. Bush denounced Community Action programs as being static. However, Community Action remains an important safety net for many vulnerable individuals and families. Beginning in 2001, Community Action has improved their reporting through the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) framework and continuously seeks ways to improve outreach and services. The National Community Action Partnership now encourages all Community Action Agencies to embrace the National Standards of Excellence as a pathway to improve and empower agency operations.

The guiding principle of maximum feasible participation continues today in Community Action. Local Community Action boards are tripartite, in other words, have representation from all segments of the local community including their low-income clients.

Why Community Action?

Community Action equips low-income citizens with the tools and potential for becoming self-sufficient. The structure of program is unique – federal dollars are used locally to offer specialized programming in communities. It is a coordinated effort to address the root effects of poverty and to, ultimately, move families and individuals to self-sufficiency.

This work is not easy and demand is always shifting and changing. Over the years, the federal government has changed as well. The funding is now part of the Block Grant System, which allows for the flexibility and specialization of unique programs. Poverty is viewed as a systemic problem and Community Action is a systems approach to resolving those issues. There are now over 1000 Community Action Agencies throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) promote self-sufficiency, not dependency. Among their three key assets are:

FLEXIBILITY - The Community Services Block Grant, which supplies the core CAA funding, is unique; it is flexible, and it primarily funds local investments in services, facilities and partnerships which are particular to the CAA's home community. By adding to and altering government programs' "one-size-fits-all" programming, a community can provide its

low-income members the right mix of assistance, encouragement, and incentives to become self-sufficient.

IMMEDIACY - CAAs are located in the areas of greatest need, managed and staffed by community residents and often open far into the evening. Therefore, when a family or an individual faces a crisis, their CAA is able to respond quickly with targeted forms of assistance appropriate to the situation; these may well include the mobilization of help from many of the CAA's private sector partners, volunteers, and faith-based groups.

The goal is to promptly stabilize a family, and thus avoid the long-term consequence of costly dependency. However, Community Action also has the capability to sustain long-term involvement in a family's progress to self-sufficiency, as well as in the development of the low-income community.

COORDINATION - A bedrock principle of Community Action is that resources of all kinds need to be integrated so they can be used in combination to solve community and individual problems. CAAs manage more than \$5.6 billion in public and private resources annually, serving more than 9.3 million low-income persons; the CSBG-funded staff goes into the community and to other government sources to bring in not only leveraged funds but also hundreds of thousands of local volunteers.

So, in other words:

The Community Action Method:

- Prioritizes prevention
- Addresses the causes of poverty
- Involves the Community
- Improves the Community
- Creates Opportunity
- CAA response to clients/customers is:
 - Flexible
 - Coordinated
 - Directed to Long Term Client Development

Typically, the programs and services coordinated, enhanced and offered to the community by its CAA include all or some of the following:

TO HELP AND ENCOURAGE CHILDREN AND YOUTH: Head Start, Literacy Programs, Dropout Prevention, After School Enrichment and Tutoring, Teen Centers, Recreation and Sports Programs, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC), Well-Baby Clinics, Summer Enrichment Programs, Summer Food Programs, Child Care Food Programs, Pregnancy Prevention, Character Education, Substance Abuse Education, Prevention & Counseling, Summer Youth Employment Programs, College Counseling and Placement.

TO SUPPORT THE WORKING POOR: Child Care, Adult Education, GED Preparation, Job Training and On-The-Job Support, Job Search Assistance, Job Placement, Job Creation, Small

Business Development, Loan Funds, Senior Community Service Employment, Displaced Homemaker Programs, Budget Counseling, Internet Training and Access.

TO SUPPORT THE POOR FACING CRISIS: Homeless Shelters & Drop-In Centers, Utility Deposits, Eviction Prevention, Domestic Violence Programs & Shelters, Transitional Housing, Food Pantries Energy Crisis Assistance & Shelter, Emergency Food Baskets, Emergency Clothing, Supplies, and Services - including Medical & Legal Volunteer Help.

TO SUSTAIN AND HONOR THE ELDERLY: Meals on Wheels, In-Home Care Programs, Senior Centers, Senior Day Care, Foster Grandparents, Congregate Meals, Medical Transportation, Volunteer Chore Services.

TO STRENGTHEN THE WHOLE FAMILY: Comprehensive Family Development Support, Nutrition Education, Parenting Education, Community Gardens and Canneries, Food Stamps, Health Clinics, Weatherization Assistance, Energy Assistance, Rental Assistance, Home Ownership Programs, Community Centers, Individual Development Accounts.

TO STRENGTHEN THE WHOLE COMMUNITY: Low-Income Housing Development, Economic Development and Support for New Business Ventures, Mobilization of Community-Wide Safety and Crime Prevention Initiatives, Consumer Education and Fraud Prevention, Community Reinvestment Act Partnerships, Support for Groups Working on Neighborhood Improvements, Support for Dialogue and Planning among all Sectors of the Community.

Unique Characteristics of Community Action Agencies

BOARD STRUCTURE - CAAs are required to have a tripartite board consisting of equal parts of local private sector, public sector, and low-income community representatives. This structure brings together community leaders from each of these groups to collaborate on developing responses to local needs. This allows for Maximum Feasible Participation in both the creation and administration of Community Action programs.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT – The CAA network is one of the largest users of volunteer services in the country. In FY 98, CAAs reported that volunteers contributed more than 27 million hours of service, equivalent to more than 13,000 full time employees.

LEVERAGE FOR OTHER RESOURCES – Every Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) dollar spent leverages nearly \$4 of state, local, and private contributions combined. The CAA network administers a total of nearly \$5.6 billion in federal, state, local and private resources.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS – CSBG funds give CAAs the flexibility to design programs that address needs specific to individuals and the local community and to identify specialized resources that fit these needs.

IV. Overview of Sangamon County and Springfield, IL: Community Profile

Located in the heartland of both Illinois and the nation, Sangamon County was established in 1821 and has an estimated population of 200,000 in an area of 877 square miles. Sangamon County is a growing community with one of the nation’s lowest costs of living. Sangamon County has a strong and thriving local economy that is based upon healthcare, professional services, state government, tourism and agriculture, all of which help provide for one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state. Sangamon County is also home to the Mid-Illinois Regional Medical Center, including the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, as well as several colleges and the University of Illinois at Springfield, a four-year state university that is ranked as one of the best in the Midwest. Sangamon County enjoys a national reputation as a wonderful place to live, do business and raise a family and is home to several of the nation’s most significant historic sites.

V. 2015 Demographic Profile - age, gender, race/ethnicity, households (appendix 9)

Population	199,016	Change since 2010 – 5.33% increase (+10,065)	Persons in Poverty 29,798 2015 Poverty Rate = 15.3% Same as 2014	Poverty Rate Change 2000-2015 5.8%	Children in Poverty 0-17 10,111 Poverty Rate 22.6% Change 2000-2014 5.8%
Gender	Male 94,124	Female 103,443	In poverty Male 13,769	In Poverty Female 16,528	County Poverty Rate 15.56%
Ages	0-4: 11,694 In Poverty 3,485 (29.8%)	5-17: 33,261 In Poverty 7,374 (22.2%)	18-64: n/a	Over 65: 28,648 In Poverty 1,753 (6.1%)	
Population in Poverty by Race alone	Total White population : 11.38%	Total Black: population : 39.62	In Poverty White# 18,362	In Poverty Black 9,450	In Poverty Other/Multiple 1,343
Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic in Poverty 1,033 (24.8%)	Hispanic in Poverty 29,264 (14,01%)			

Households	Total 51,204	Total families in poverty 5,485 10.8%	In poverty Female Head 3,670 66.96	In poverty Married 1,213 22.10%	In poverty Male Head 602 11.00%
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VI. Changes in the Community Over Time: Trends in population, age, households, race, housing, education and income. (Appendix 20 on line: 2010 Census Analysis, Sangamon County Regional Planning) *(Note: for tables not displayed in this report, please refer to Appendix 20 on line for them.)*

Population

Sangamon County Census Analysis- 2010 its smallest growth rate of 1% between 1980 and 1990. The State of Illinois demonstrates an even wider range of growth rate fluctuation, with growth rates from 101% between 1850 and 1860 to one-half of a 1% increase for the 1980-1990 decade. For each of these three bodies, growth rates have slowed in recent decades. These declining rates of growth are significant, and may suggest a move toward potential future population declines.

Population Growth

In recent decades, mid-size Illinois counties such as Sangamon, Champaign, McLean, Macon, Peoria, Rock Island and Winnebago show considerable variation in growth rates. Sangamon County's population increased moderately at 4.5% from 2000 to 2010.

Table 2: POPULATION GROWTH
Sangamon and Selected Illinois Counties, % Change
1990-2010 Population

County	1990	2000	2010	2000-2010
Sangamon	178,386	188,951	197,465	4.5%
Champaign	173,025	179,668	201,081	11.9%
McLean	129,180	150,433	169,572	12.7%
Macon	117,206	114,706	110,768	-3.4%
Peoria	182,827	183,433	186,494	1.7%
Rock Island	148,723	149,374	147,546	-1.2%
Winnebago	252,913	278,418	295,266	6.1%
Illinois	11,430,602	12,419,293	12,830,632	3.3%

In comparison, most counties fluctuated at a similarly moderate rate. McLean County proved the exception again with a growth rate of 12.7% between 2000 and 2010, although this represents a decline from its previous growth rate of 16% from 1990-2000. Macon and Rock Island Counties both showed a population decrease in the last decade, whereas Peoria and Champaign Counties showed only slight increases.

Within Sangamon County, a comparison of population growth of the twenty-six townships reveals distinct trends from those that occurred in the last decade. Between 1990 and 2000, most townships experienced population increases, with the exception of the east side of the county. In contrast, eleven of the twenty-six townships in Sangamon County experienced decreases in population from 2000 to 2010. The bulk of these townships were on the west side of the county.

The greatest population growth in the last decades occurred in Ball, Fancy Creek, New Berlin, and Rochester Townships, which all had population growth of over 20% (Table 3, Figure 2). With the exception of New Berlin and Island Grove Townships, these townships are all located on outside edges of Capital Township and the City of Springfield. These trends represent the increased prevalence of “bedroom communities,” or those yet-developable communities near enough to the City of Springfield to attract commuters, but which can expand and attract residents without facing some of the growth constraints associated with annexation to the City of Springfield.

Table 3: POPULATION BY TOWNSHIP, Sangamon County 1990-2010 Population

	1990	2000	2010	# Change	% Change
Auburn Township	5,208	6,020	6,333	313	5.2%
Ball Township	3,475	4,573	6,701	2,128	46.5%
Buffalo Hart Township	226	195	173	-22	-11.3%
Capital Township	104,126	111,471	115,756	4,285	3.8%
Cartwright Township	1,381	1,507	1,482	-25	-1.7%
Chatham Township	4,961	6,019	6,978	959	15.9%
Clear Lake Township	7,780	8,155	8,527	372	4.6%
Cooper Township	771	820	893	73	8.9%
Cotton Hill Township	954	1,065	902	-163	-15.3%
Curran Township	1,505	1,678	1,586	-92	-5.5%
Divernon Township	1,484	1,548	1,510	-38	-2.5%

Fancy Creek Township	3,293	4,145	5,410	1,265	30.5%
Gardner Township	3,870	4,250	4,245	-5	-0.1%
Illioopolis Township	1,366	1,302	1,314	12	0.9%
Island Grove Township	494	532	621	89	16.7%
Lanesville Township	225	199	208	9	4.5%
Loami Township	1,071	1,118	1,070	-48	-4.3%
Maxwell Township	215	194	193	-1	-0.5%
Mechanicsburg Township	2,261	2,116	2,293	177	8.4%
New Berlin Township	990	1,262	1,524	262	20.8%
Pawnee township	2,775	2,948	3,058	110	3.7%
Rochester Township	4,432	4,486	5,361	1,145	25.5%
Springfield Township	7,857	7,046	6,245	-801	-11.4%
Talkington Township	257	263	189	-74	-28.1%
Williams Township	2,797	3,310	3,446	136	4.1%
Woodside Township	14,612	12,729	11,447	-1,282	-10.1%
TOTAL	178,386	188,951	197,465	8,514	4.5%

The largest decreases in population in the 2000-2010 decade occurred in the rural areas of Sangamon County. Nine of the eleven townships that experienced decreases in population in the last decade were in rural areas, many in the western portion of the county. The more distant the township area from a larger urban area, the greater the decrease, including Talkington, Buffalo Hart, and Cotton Hill Townships, each with a decrease of more than 10%. It is important to note, however, that these large percentages of decrease may slightly exaggerate the trends in these areas, since their population bases are smaller than those in the rural areas. For example, with a decrease of only 74 people in the last decade, Talkington Township experienced a population growth rate of -28.1%. Even taking these numerical factors into account, however, there is a pattern of decrease in the rural areas more prevalent in those townships that do not have a strong incorporated area attracting residents. This is likely also related to the mechanization of farming and the decline of smaller family farms, requiring less population in rural areas.

Exceptions to this pattern of decline in rural areas are the large decreases in Woodside and Springfield Townships, which are not as rural in nature. These areas are generally already developed, are covered by Springfield School District 186, and do not represent areas with as many opportunities for growth as some of their neighboring townships that house growing bedroom communities. Residential growth in the Villages of Chatham, Rochester, and Sherman (Chatham, Rochester, and Fancy Creek Townships) may reflect positive resident attitudes toward community attributes, such as village amenities, services, or school districts.

Noteworthy Trends — Two significant trends are demonstrated in the population characteristics data that have potential to impact the region significantly:

Sangamon County’s growth increased at a slighter rate in the last decade than the prior decade, suggesting that the population’s rate of growth is trending downward. This is in contrast to some peer counties that continue to see more robust growth.

Most rural townships in Sangamon County that do not immediately border the urbanized area experienced population decreases. As agricultural communities require fewer people to sustain their industries, birthrates decline, aging populations experience natural declines, gas prices increase, and residents move to urban areas; rural areas in Illinois have begun to see noteworthy decreases in population.

Policymakers in Sangamon County should be aware of these trends and consider them as well as programs targeted to meet rural needs through increased amenities and quality-of-life programming.

Population of incorporated areas in Sangamon County increased by 5.2% overall. The average growth rate for the various incorporated areas was 10%. The Village of Clear Lake experienced the most population decline. In contrast, Spaulding (56%), Sherman (44%), and Chatham (34%) had the greatest rates of population growth (Appendix 11, Table 4). These patterns reflect similar trends to those discussed above related to growth in “bedroom communities,” as opposed to rural areas.

Noteworthy Trends — Another important trend evident in the population distribution data is the continued dispersion of the City of Springfield’s population. North and central portions of the city have experienced population decline, whereas the southwest portion of the city’s census tracts all exhibit increases in population.

While this statistically supported trend parallels intuitive assumptions based on the west side’s growth, it is important to note because of its significant potential to impact policy decisions.

New development on the outer reaches of the city, rather than infill development, has potential to increase infrastructure costs to the city and lead to decline and blight in the central city areas.

While some favorable increases in population appear to have occurred in some of the near northeast census tracts in the city, perhaps incentivized by redevelopment projects, the

decreases in population in the majority of the central city are a noteworthy and concerning trend.

Update from 2017 Sangamon County Citizen Survey (excerpt):

Results from the 2017 Citizens Survey revealed that “there is almost no confidence for state elected officials, and federal elected officials did not do much better”. Nearly 90 percent of those surveyed said the state budget impasse had a negative effect of Sangamon county, while 44 percent said they had been directly affected. The uncertainty of state government gridlock appeared to affect sentiment on jobs, the loss of young professionals, education, the economy and even personal well-being.

Regarding relocating, 36 percent considered moving out of the county, 52 percent in the 18-35 age group, 51 percent with incomes between \$30,000 and \$49,000 and 41 percent among those with graduate or professional degrees.

There were bright spots in the responses. Solid majorities said Sangamon County was a good place to live, raise kids and work, while 60 percent rated the overall quality of education good to excellent. Well over 90% reported having health insurance compared with 88 percent in the first year of the survey in 2013.

Age Characteristics

Continuing the trend from 2000, Census data indicate that the population of Sangamon County as a whole is growing older. Since 1970, median age has been increasing in the State of Illinois, Sangamon County, and the City of Springfield. Years with the largest increases for Sangamon County include from 1980-1990 and 1990-2000. Between 2000 and 2010, median age in Sangamon County increased by just under two years. Median age in Springfield, which is generally slightly lower than Sangamon County’s median age, increased by 1.3 years. Significantly, both have higher median ages than the State of Illinois as a whole, pointing toward an aging population in the region.

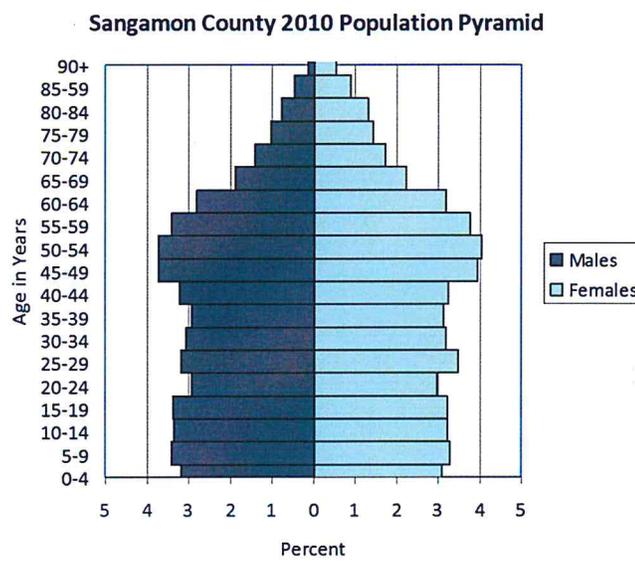
Increases in median age over the last several decades have been heavily influenced by the aging of the Baby Boom cohort beyond the median age (Table 8). Baby Boomers in 2010 are considered those who are in the age cohort of 45-64 years. In 1970, Baby Boomers were in the under 18 age cohort. Table 8 demonstrates the shifts in population distribution based on the growth of the Baby Boomers. From 1970 to 2000, this age group shifted from under 18 to middle age, and the distribution bulge of above 30% in these selected age groups represents this trend. In 2010, Baby Boomers were aging beyond the middle range of 35-54 years, seen by the reduction of this figure to 28%.

Table 7: MEDIAN AGE Illinois	Sangamon County	Springfield
1970	28.6	30.3
1980	29.9	31.4
1990	29.9	31
2000	32.8	34
2010	34.7	36.9
	36.6	38.2
	39.2	

Accordingly, the age group of 45-64, which has previously not been a cohort of focus, has been added. The 26% increase in this group from 2000-2010 indicates that Baby Boomers have now reached this stage of life. The population pyramid (Figure 4) also demonstrates this trend. Sangamon County's pyramid represents a typical 2010 structure, with the Baby Boom generation creating the "bulge" from ages 45-64.

As time continues to pass, this age distribution will have significant impact on the region, as well as the amenities and services its residents may require. Sangamon County's largest population cohort will soon reach retirement age, leading to a higher dependency ratio of non-working population to working population (see page 21 for further discussion). Increases in the relative size of the retirement-age population cohort could have other effects as well. For example, it may lead to population decline as residents relocate. Alternatively, it could lead to on-going increases in the number of aging residents. In 2020, for instance, nearly 8% of residents are likely to be reaching age 70, perhaps requiring additional social services and/or medical care. This group would reach approximately age 80 by 2030. While life cycle effects will likely lead to a slight reduction in the number of people in this age cohort over time, as natural deaths occur, improved medical care will likely reduce this decline and increase the life expectancy of this age cohort.

	1980	1990	2000	2010	1980- 1990	1990- 2000	2000- 2010	
Under 18 Years	48,356	45,551	47,147	46,816	-6%	4%	-1%	-3%
35-54 Years	36,967	46,893	59,066	55,268	27%	26%	-6%	50%
45-64 Years	n/a	n/a	44,841	56,522	n/a	n/a	26%	n/a
65+ Years	22,037	24,450	25,524	27,362	11%	4%	7%	24%
Total	176,089	178,386	188,951	197,465	1%	6%	5%	12%



Geographical Distribution

Median age in Sangamon County varies by geographical area. For instance, the lowest median age county-wide is 27.1 years, in Census Tract 28.07. In contrast, the median age in Census Tract 20 is 55.5 years. This variation in age is likely linked to other demographic factors as well, such as race and gender.

Noteworthy Trends— Sangamon County’s median age has increased in the last decade, particularly in the western portion of the City of Springfield and in rural areas. Areas that have lower concentrations of white population and lower incomes, in contrast, retain lower median ages.

It will be important for policymakers to consider the needs of this aging population in future years. Some avenues for doing this that may be considered include expansion of medical services, public transit, and community or accessible housing.

Age By Township

An examination of townships suggests that the highest percentages of children (those under 18) are in Ball Township and Maxwell Township, both of which have 30% of the population in this age cohort. By way of comparison, in 2000 Ball and Cartwright Townships each had a high distribution of 30%. Sangamon County has a county-wide distribution of 27% under the age of 18 in 2010, whereas in 2000 there were 25% under the age of 18.

In 2010, Buffalo Hart Township had the lowest percentage of children, 12%. This continues a striking trend of decreasing numbers of children in this township, down from 16% in 2000 and 31% in 1990. Buffalo Hart Township’s rural character, including no municipalities, provides a likely explanation for these aging trends.

As Table 11 indicates (Appendix 13, page 15), the lowest median age, 35.7, occurred in Auburn and Chatham Townships. Buffalo Hart had the highest median age, 51.9. The median age for Sangamon County in 2010 was 39.2.

Table 12: (See report page 16, Appendix 13)

COMPARATIVE AGE DISTRIBUTION, 2000-2010

Selected Geographies

Table 12 provides a preliminary look at the growth trends for specific age cohorts in Sangamon County as compared to both the State of Illinois and the City of Springfield.

As the county’s age distribution data discussed above suggest, fewer children and higher proportions of older adults now reside in the county. However, Sangamon County’s decrease in residents age 18 and under is smaller than the decrease experienced by Illinois in the last decade. Sangamon County showed a decline of only 0.7%, compared to a 3.5% decline for the state at large. The City of Springfield has experienced even less of a decline and also had a smaller increase than the county or state in its population age 60 and over.

Under 18 Age Group Table 13: Historical % under 18 years; Sangamon County (Appendix 13, page 17)

Throughout the county, the historical trend has been a gradual decline in the number of children (defined as those under 18 years of age) from decade to decade. From 2000 to 2010, only ten census tracts showed an increase in the number of children. This increase was negligible in all but Tracts 8 (near east Springfield) and 13 (downtown). With 39% of its population under 18 years of age, Census Tract 8 has the greatest distribution of children in the County. Tract 8's relatively low median age reflects this fact.

For Tract 8 (which includes the area between 11th and 19th Streets that is north of Jefferson Street and south of North Grand Street), the new development of residential homes in Madison Park place likely led to this increase. Tract 13 runs from 5th Street to Walnut Street, between Jefferson Street and Lawrence Street. Here, the substantial increase in the under-18 population is likely due to additional residential housing downtown, on top of an initially small residential base, allowing for smaller numerical increases to reflect greater percentage change.

In contrast, Tract 14 has only 4% children, followed by Tract 27 with 19% children. These low percentage distributions of children are in keeping with the historical trends for these tracts. Figure 6 depicts the percent distribution of those under 18 years of age by tract in 2010. Census tracts with over 30% of their population under 18 years of age are concentrated on the east side of the City of Springfield. The large proportions of children in these areas are noteworthy, particularly given some other demographic challenges facing the area.

Baby Boom Generation (45-64 Years) Table 14: BABY BOOM GENERATION Appendix 13, page 19)

Sangamon County 2010

As discussed above, the Baby Boom generation, age 45 to 64 in 2010, are an age group of historical importance. The Baby Boom generation was born between 1946 and 1965, in a time of high fertility rates and rising levels of births. In 2010, Baby Boomers made up approximately 29% of the population of Sangamon County, as compared to 31% in 2000. Geographically, Census 2010 indicates that larger concentrations of Baby Boomers reside in the area surrounding the City of Springfield than within the city. These areas represent more affluent and rural areas.

In Sangamon County, the Baby Boom population ranges from a low of 18% in Tract 28.02 to a high of 38% in Tract 36.01 (Figure 7).

As a whole, Sangamon County's population has aged since 2000. As the Baby Boom generation ages, there are not as many members of the 25 to 44 year-old age cohort to replace their demographic in Sangamon County's workforce. In 2000, the Baby Boom generation was part of the 35 to 54 age cohort, and therefore was still a presence in the County's labor force. However, as the Baby Boom generation nears retirement age, the aging population will be a concern for Sangamon County.

As discussed above, some of the implications of these changes include increasing retirements or increased need for social services and healthcare. Particularly because this age cohort generally lives in the outlying areas surrounding the city, transportation to and from these amenities for aging residents may also be a policy matter of concern.

Age 65 and Above

In keeping with the aging population trends of the nation, the number of persons age 65 and older has increased by approximately 7% since 2000 in both Sangamon County and the State of Illinois. Although the proportion of the population in this age cohort decreased from 1990-2000, this proportion increased to 13.9% in 2010. In 2010, this age cohort made up 13.9% of Sangamon County's total population, compared to 13.5% in 2000. The geographical distribution of this cohort is represented in Table 14 and Figure 8.

The highest concentrations of those aged 65 and older expanded in geographical distribution toward the outlying areas around the city of Springfield, particularly on its west side. This represents a slight change from 2000, when tracts within Springfield's downtown and near west side, such as 3, 14, 15, 10.02, and 11 had the highest percentages. In contrast, Tract 20, with 28.2% over the age of 65, had the highest concentration in 2010. Tracts 10.01, 11, and 15 had the next highest concentrations, all with over 20%. This suggests that, while tracts that previously had high percentages of elderly residents maintained relatively similar distributions of those aged 65 and older, aging patterns in other, surrounding tracts have caused more tracts to fall into the category with highest percentages of respondents in this age cohort.

Noteworthy Trends—

Another useful way to consider age data is to develop dependency ratios for a region. Age dependency ratios represent the percentage of residents that are either children (0-18 years), elderly (65 years +), or both (considered the dependent populations), as compared to the population of working age (19-64 years). Dependency ratios for Sangamon County and Illinois are provided to the below.

	Sangamon County	Illinois
Age dependency ratio	66.4	58.6
Old-age dependency ratio	24.4	19.9
Child dependency ratio	41.8	38.7

These ratios suggest that the population that is of working age has an unusually high portion of dependent population to support in this region. While these ratios are not a perfect metric because some residents work prior to age 18 and after age 65, they nevertheless provide a simple and useful representation of the potential impact that age distribution may have on the economic well-being of the region. Increases in the proportions of older and younger populations can place demands on healthcare, social services, and education services, which can create strain on governmental entities, particularly in a scenario where the economic base of those in the labor force is not robust enough to support these service levels.

The trend of a slightly more elderly distribution of the female population occurs in all racial groups except that of American Indians, suggested by the median ages presented in Table 17, below.

Table 17 also indicates that the median age for black residents of Sangamon County is substantially lower than that of white or American Indian residents. Blacks have a median age of 26.8 years of age, compared to the total median age of 40.6 for Sangamon County. Asians have a median age of 33.1 years.

**Table 17: MEDIAN AGE BY RACE
Sangamon County 2010**

Race	Total	Male	Female
White	42.0	40.4	43.6
American Indian	40.6	41.0	40.5
Asian	33.1	31.9	34.4
Black	26.8	25.4	28.0
TOTAL	40.6	41.0	40.5

Race Characteristics

Composition

As in 2000, the white population was the largest racial group in both Sangamon County and the City of Springfield in 2010. However, the white population made up a smaller percentage of the population in 2010 in both areas, with 83.6% in Sangamon County (compared to 87% in 2000) and 75.8% in Springfield (compared to 81%). This trend stems from increases in the black population, especially in Springfield, and slight increases in the population of two or more races.

In 2010, the black population was the largest minority with 11.8% in Sangamon County and 18.5% in Springfield. About 2.2% of the population indicated that they were of two or more racial groups. Small percentages of the population fell into the Asian (1.6% total) or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.1%) categories.

	Sangamon County		Springfield	
	#	%	#	%
One Race	193,146	97.8	113,187	97.4
White	165,103	83.6	88,092	75.8
Black or African American	23,335	11.8	21,510	18.5
American Indian and Alaskan Native	394	0.2	239	0.2
Asian	3,220	1.6	2,555	2.2
Asian Indian	1,160	0.6	1,160	1.0
Chinese	611	0.3	611	0.5
Filipino	347	0.2	347	0.3
Japanese	87	0.0	87	0.1
Korean	249	0.1	249	0.2

Vietnamese	271	0.1	271	0.2
Pakistani	146	0.1	146	0.1
Taiwanese	74	0.1	74	0.1
Thai	52	0.0	52	0.0
Other	117	0.0	117	0.1
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	47	0.1	25	0.0
Native Hawaiian	9	0.0	4	0.0
Guamanian or Chamorro	13	0.0	3	0.0
Samoan	12	0.0	6	0.0
Other Pacific Islander	4	0.0	3	0.0
Some other race	1,047	0.5	766	0.7
Two or more races	4,319	2.2	3,063	2.6
TOTAL	197,465		116,250	

Although not a racial category, “persons of Hispanic origin” is a population subgroup of great interest, especially since it is one of the fastest growing subgroups in the country. In Sangamon County, there was a 74.0% increase in the number of persons of Hispanic origin between 2000 and 2010 and, in Springfield, a 73.9% increase. This represents an acceleration in the trends of population increase for persons of Hispanic origin since the last decade, when the subgroup grew by 57% in Sangamon County and 54% in Springfield. However, in both geographic locations, “persons of Hispanic origin” constituted 2% of the population or less (Table 19). This percentage is significantly lower than the 15.8% population of persons of Hispanic origin in the State of Illinois.

Racial diversity in Sangamon County has continued to increase over the past decade. From 2000-2010, the total population grew at a rate of 4.5%. The black, Asian, other, and two or more races population groups grew at rates far higher than this over the last decade. Those of two or more races experienced the greatest proportional increase as a percentage of population, with approximately 88% growth. Numerically, the group that grew the most was blacks, with an increase of 5,098. In contrast, whites, Native Hawaiians, and American Indians experienced population decreases. As a proportion of the total population of the county, blacks experienced the greatest increase in their population distribution. These trends are similar to those that occurred from 1990-2000, with accelerated rates of increase in racial diversity.

In contrast to the 2000 Census, 2010 data indicate that whites experienced both numerical and proportional decreases in the last decade, with a decline of 616 people, from 87.4 to 83.6%. Although the total population’s growth rate in the City of Springfield was roughly the same as that for Sangamon County, racial trends were even more pronounced in Springfield. Whites experienced a 5.2% decrease in the proportion of the City’s population they made up, and the black population proportion grew by 3.2%. In Springfield, the black population increased at a slightly lower rate than it did county-wide over the ten-year period, potentially a numerical effect

of the larger population base in this decade than in the last. However, the Asian population increased at a higher rate within the city than it did elsewhere in the county.

Table 21: RACIAL COMPOSITION AND DISTRIBUTION
Sangamon County (total)

Racial Designation	2000		2010		# Change 2000-2010	% Change 2000-2010	% Change in Distribution
	Pop.	% Dist.	Pop.	% Dist.			
White	165,719	87.4%	165,103	83.6%	-616	-0.37%	-3.80%
Black	18,237	9.7%	23,335	11.8%	5,098	27.95%	2.10%
American Indian	397	0.2%	394	0.2%	-3	-0.76%	0.00%
Asian	2,082	1.1%	3,220	1.6%	1,138	54.66%	0.50%
Hawaiian	53	0.0%	47	0.1%	-6	-11.32%	0.10%
Other	709	0.4%	1,047	0.5%	338	47.67%	0.10%
Two or More	2,294	1.2%	4,319	2.2%	2,025	88.27%	1.00%
Total	188,951		197,465		8,514	4.51%	
Hispanic	2,000	1.1%	3,480	1.8%	1,480	74.00%	0.70%

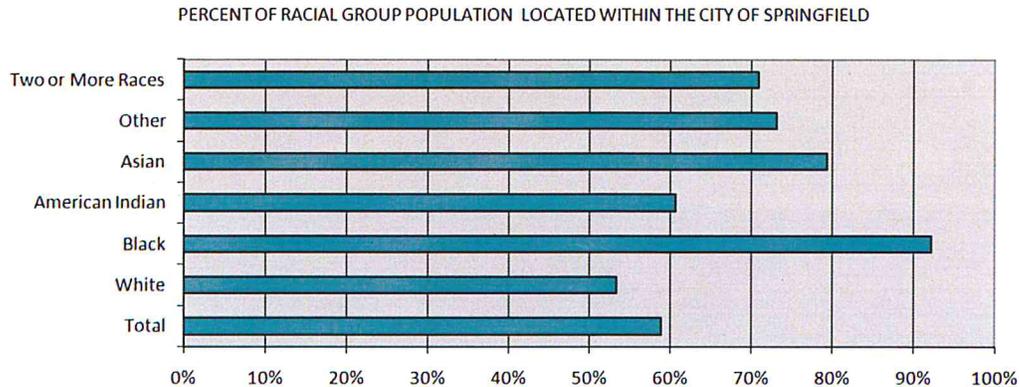
City of Springfield (total)

Racial Designation	2000		2010		# Change 2000-2010	% Change 2000-2010	% Change in Distribution
	Pop.	% Dist.	Pop.	% Dist.			
White	90,287	81.0%	88,092	75.8%	-2,195	-2.4%	-5.2%
Black	17,096	15.3%	21,510	18.5%	4,414	25.8%	3.2%
American Indian	231	0.2%	239	0.2%	8	3.5%	0.0%
Asian	1,620	1.5%	2,555	2.2%	935	57.7%	0.7%
Hawaiian	34	-	25	0.0%	-9%	-26.5%	
Other	525	0.5%	766	0.7%	241	45.9%	0.2%
Two or More	1,661	1.5%	3,063	2.6%	1,402	84.4%	1.1%
Total	111,454		116,250		4,796	4.3	
Hispanic	1,337	1.2%	2,325	2.0%	988	73.9%	0.8%

Distribution

As indicated above, minority racial groups in Sangamon County are concentrated in the City of Springfield. Approximately 59% of the Sangamon County's total population lives in Springfield. However, 92% of the black population and 79% of the Asian population, the two largest minority groups, reside within the City (Figure 9). The population outside of Springfield is predominately white. Only 5.2% of the population outside of Springfield is not white. However, this represents an increase from 3.2% in 2010, indicating that racial diversity in the county is becoming slightly more dispersed.

**Figure 9: RACIAL POPULATION DISTRIBUTION- WITHIN CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
Sangamon County 2010**



The 2010 Census suggests that the patterns of increased dispersion of the black population from the 2000 Census have continued in the last decade. Fifty percent of the total black population lived in only the nine tracts with the highest concentration of blacks in 2010, which included Tracts 15, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, 25, 28.02, and 30 (Table 22, Figure 10), all in east Springfield. In contrast, fifty percent of the black population could be found in only six tracts in 2000. This effect comes from the increases in the dispersion of the black population living in Tracts 19, 25, 28.02, and 30, accompanied by proportional decreases in the other most heavily concentrated tracts. The tract with the highest concentration of black population was Tract 17 with 78%. Rural tracts in Sangamon County maintained concentrations under or around 1% black.

In a comparison of Census 2000 and 2010, with very few exceptions, census tracts generally experienced moderate to large increases in the percentage of their population that was black. The tracts that experienced decreases were those that previously had the highest proportions of black population, such as Tracts 15, 16, and 17. However, these tracts still represent the highest concentrations of the black population, which cluster on the east side of Springfield (Figure 10). The continued increases in the black population (28%) over the last decade account for these trends of dispersion and increased areas of concentration. Regardless of this variation among specific census tracts, however, it is important to note that overall patterns related to the geographical distribution of various racial groups in the City of Springfield remained similar to prior years' patterns and perhaps became even more entrenched as more white residents moved to areas outside the City of Springfield. For example, Springfield experienced a decline of 2.4% for white residents while experiencing a 25.8% increase in its black population.

As Table 24 suggests, there are no overwhelming areas of population concentration for other racial minorities in Sangamon County. Since so few members of these populations live in Sangamon County, the reliability of trends for populations is limited. One exception may be the Asian population, which appears more likely to live in the southern and western parts of the City of Springfield. Nearly 50% of the Asian population in Sangamon County lives in Tracts 10.04, 28.02, 29, 30, 31, 36.03, 36.04 (Table 24).

Noteworthy Trends—

In a trend similar —though perhaps of less magnitude— to the one occurring throughout the nation, Sangamon County’s population became more diverse in the past decade. Black and Asian populations grew and became slightly more dispersed throughout the City of Springfield and Sangamon County. However, the highest concentration of black residents remains in East Springfield, as has been the historical pattern. The population of Hispanic origin also increased.

Households

Household Growth

By Census definition, a household is all the people who occupy a housing unit. Throughout the past two decades, the number of households has increased in Springfield, Sangamon County, and Illinois (Table 25). The growth rate of households exceeded the rate of population growth from 2000 to 2010. Particularly in the City of Springfield, household growth far surpassed population growth. The continued trend of smaller household size contributed to the higher household formation rate. Several smaller household types that have experienced increases may have contributed to this trend, including increased numbers of single-person elderly households and single-parent families (see dependency ratio discussion on page 21). The tendency of young adults to marry and form shared households somewhat later than in prior decades may also be contributing to higher individual household formation rates, as well as lower average numbers of persons per household.

Growth in the number of households from 2000-2010 varied in different portions of the county. The sharpest declines in households occurred in the north and east parts of the City of Springfield. The single greatest change in households occurred in Tract 17, with a 33% decrease, and Tract 32.01, with an 84% increase. The largest increases in households were on the west and south sides of Springfield.

Throughout the region, growth trends for number of households paralleled those for population. Households tended to have sharper changes in percentage increases and decreases, which would be expected due to the lower total number of households (Table 26). The only tract where this pattern of parallel trends did not hold true was Tract 9 on the northeast side of Springfield.

Noteworthy Trends— One-person households have increased by 8.3% in the past decade and are concentrated in the central east part of the City of Springfield. Policymakers should consider the implications of this trend, which could point to aging residents, increased likelihood for younger generations to postpone forming families until later in life, or some other pattern with potential to impact service needs and preferences.

Generally speaking, there has been a dramatic change in the distribution of certain family types that make up households in Sangamon County. Between 1980 and 2010, there was a 23% decrease in married couples with children, but an 84% increase in female-headed households with related children and a 66% increase in other family types, including grandparents caring for children. These family types can often be correlated with lower incomes, increased difficulty in providing childcare when children are not in school, and other challenges.

It is therefore also important for policymakers to consider this trend, which represents not just a change in the nature of households, but a transformational change in how our region thinks about family as part of its social fabric.

Noteworthy Trends—The percentage of households with children in which a married couple is the head of the household has decreased over the last decade. Increases have occurred in the region and within the City of Springfield for female-headed households and other household types with children. Female-headed households with *their own* children increased by 14%, whereas female-headed households with any related children increased by 30% over the last decade. Though these percentage increases are smaller as a proportion of the total families with children, this is due to an overall decline in the number of families with children. In contrast to female-headed households with children, married families with their own children experienced an 18% decline in the last decade.

This represents a fairly dramatic increase in female-headed households, concentrated on the east side of Springfield. Changes in family structure can be correlated with changes in income, educational opportunity, and other matters of key concern for both residents and policymakers. These trends are significant for policymakers to monitor in the coming decade.

Noteworthy Trends— Vacancy rates in the region remain elevated as compared to the ideal standard for community mobility. This is particularly true for the City of Springfield, where vacancy is higher than in the Sangamon County region as a whole, and higher than that of the state. Tracts with the most vacant properties are on the near east side of the City of Springfield.

Noteworthy Trends— Public administration continues to decline as an industry in Sangamon County. With a decline of approximately 6% over the last decade as a proportion of total employment by industry. This is a reversal of the trend of the prior several decades, when it increased from 13% in 1970 up to 20% in 2000, and is likely tied to cuts in state employment or transfer of some functions of state government to locations outside the capital. This shift in labor force distribution across industries may have significant impact on numerous factors in the Sangamon County region.

Conclusions

Census data is a valuable resource for leaders in the Sangamon County region. Particularly in terms of on-going trends and their policy implications, demographic factors can and do have a significant impact on the nature of how residents live. Throughout this analysis, SSCRPC staff has summarized several significant and relevant trends revealed by the data. A thoughtful analysis of census data from the past decade leads to significant and provocative questions for the decade to come. Should present trends continue, the impact of some noteworthy demographic factors will only continue to intensify in coming years:

Sangamon County will continue to see increased proportions of its population becoming dependent on a proportionately smaller labor force. As Baby Boomers reach retirement age in the next decade, but continue to see longer life expectancy horizons because of improvements in medical care, a substantial portion of the population, up to approximately 25%, will be in the 55 to 74 year age cohort in 2020 and the 65 to 84 year cohort in 2030. At the same time, most areas in the region have experienced a decline in the percentage of children that will be reaching working age during this time.

Sangamon County will continue to develop a different orientation toward the concept of “family.” The traditional household of a married couple with their own children has decreased as a proportion of total households and may continue to do so. Single-person households, female-headed

households, and other nontraditional family types will potentially increase proportionately in the coming decade, which may bring challenges as communities face a changing social fabric and the policy implications of those trends.

Sangamon County will continue to observe both its positive and negative trends clustering in different geographical centers in the region. It is of great significance that many observed trends in family size and type, vacancy, income, and population increases versus decreases have not occurred consistently or on an equally dispersed basis throughout the region. Instead, geographical disparities in the direction and intensity of certain trends have sharpened over the last decade. “Bedroom communities,” for example, have experienced notable increases in population while the City of Springfield and some smaller and more distant rural communities have seen declines. For many areas, population growth appears to be slowing in comparison to previous decades. Several of the family type trends discussed above are also particularly prevalent in low-income areas in Springfield, and some trends facing the eastern portion Springfield also appear to be expanding slightly northward.

As suggested throughout this analysis, many of the trends observed in Sangamon County, including those highlighted above, parallel statewide and national trends. However, this does not minimize the significant potential they have to impact the Sangamon County region, nor the attention that should be paid to these demographic trends by local leaders and policymakers. The social fabric of our community, the types of jobs that our region can attract, the provision of adequate healthcare for residents, the appropriate application of social service models, the challenges facing our education system, and the potential for residential development in our region—each of these critical aspects of community well-being are among the overwhelming number of factors that can ultimately be traced back to census data.

VII. Qualitative Data That Supports Domains below.

Table:

- A. Poverty Profile
- B. Income Profile
- C. Employment Profile
- D. Transportation Profile
- E. Public Benefits
- F. Food Security
- G. Education Profile
- H. Child Care Profile
- I. Housing Profile
- J. Health Profile

2015 Sangamon County Poverty Profile *Community Commons Platform US Census Data Appendix 9			
Poverty Estimates*	29,798 of 194,717 people (15.56%)		

Poverty Rate Change*	15.3% Increase of 5.8% from 2000-2015	National increase in poverty 3.4%			
Population in Poverty by Race*	White: 11.38% 18,362 people	Black: 39.62% 9,450 people	Other: 30.85% 1,343 people		
Families in Poverty by Family Type*	5,485 of 50,928 families 10.8%	Married: 22.1% 1,213 couples	Male Provider: 11% 602	Female Provider: 69.9% 3,670	
Child Poverty Rate*	Ages 0-17 22.8% 10,859 Increase of 8.5% from 2000-2015	Ages 0-4 29.8% 3,485 Increase of 29.8% from 2000-2015	Ages 5-17 20.7% 6,771 Increase of 7.9% from 2000-2015	Change in rate between 2000-2015 = 8.5%	
Senior Poverty Rate*	6.1% 1,733 people				
Income Profile*					
Less than \$10,000 5%	\$10,000- \$24,000 16.1%	\$25,000- \$49,000 16.5%	\$50,000- \$99,000 33.3%	\$100,000- \$149,000 20.1%	<u>\$150-\$199,999</u> 8.1% <u>\$200,000 +</u> 6.4%
Median Household Income - \$55,565					
Employment Profile*					
Unemployment	May, 2017 4.23%	May, 2016 4.73%	May, 2015 5.49%	May, 2014 6.93%	May, 2013 6.79%
Transportation*					
Workers 16+ 95,972	Percent Drive Alone 82.3%	Percent Carpool 8.8%	Percent Public Transportation 1.6%	Percent bicycle or walk 2.6%	Percent Taxi or other 1.1% Percent work at home 3.6%
Average Commute Time 18.1 minutes					
Public Benefits*					
Free and Reduced Lunch 30,677 students	Households receiving	Households Receiving SNAP below	Households Receiving SNAP above	Federally Qualified	Persons receiving Medicare

(46.41%)	SNAP Benefits 10,835 (13.07%)	income poverty level 6,101	income poverty level 4,734	Health Centers 7 2 @ 6 sites	37,978 Percent un-insured – 5%		
Food Insecurity 2015 – Appendix 12							
Food Insecurity Rate 13.55 (26,930 people)	Child food insecurity rate 21.36%	# children on free and reduced lunch in Sangamon County: 14,236 of 30,677 Percent of population with low food access = 15.41%					
Educational Profile*							
Educational Attainment	No HS Diploma: 7.89%	HS Only: 28.1%	Some College: 22.7%	Associates Degree: 7.9%	<u>BS/BA:20.9%</u> Bachelors +: 12.5%		
Families Connected to Providers 367	Children Connected to providers 579	Of the total of children needing care in Sangamon County 54% were under the age of two.	<u>Most common problems in searching for care:</u> 1. Not enough openings: 15 of 119 (13%) 2. Schedule: 6 out of 119 (5%) 3. Cost: 19 out of 119 (16%) For a single working parent living in Sangamon County, working full-time, making minimum wage (\$8.25.hr.) with an infant in child care, they would either pay ❖ 60% of their income before taxes, if their child was in a child care center ❖ 43% of their income before taxes, if their child was in a child care home.				
AVERAGE WEEKLY CHILD CARE TUITON INFORMATION							
This is Full Time Weekly Rates charged by providers for Day Shift. Tuition Rates	Infant	Toddler	2's	3-4's	5's	School-age Before/Aft er	School-age Summer
Family Child Care	\$144.18	\$143.02	\$137.24	\$137.24	\$127.34	\$76.81	\$123.51
Center-based Child Care	\$197.89	\$187.50	\$172.30	\$158.03	\$153.62	\$82.87	\$140.88
Overall Average (all providers)	\$153.33	\$151.16	\$143.97	\$136.36	\$132.81	\$77.75	\$126.47
Percent of Average	25%	24%	23%	22%	21%	13%	20%

Weekly Income			
Housing Profile*			
Owner Occupied Homes in 2015 55,082 63.75%	Occupied housing units without plumbing 187 (.23%)		
Rental Housing Cost Burdened Households = 46.7%			
Health Profile – Identified Priority Needs in Sangamon County 2015 - Appendix 21			
Identified Priority Needs			
1. Cancer (Multiple Types), 2. Diabetes, 3. Asthma, 4. Mother/Baby, 5. Mental Health, 6. Access to Healthcare, 7. Obesity, 8. Cardiovascular, 9. Immunization/flu/pneumonia			
Final Selected Priorities			
Improving Access to Care	Cardiovascular Disease	Diabetes	Obesity
Institute Triple Aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Care of Individuals • Improve the Health of Populations • Reduce Waste, Variation and Cost 		Available Community Assets	Available Hospital Assets
Adults without recent dental exam		30.3%	44,975
Adults not taking high blood pressure medication		17.3%	25,645
Percent adults with high blood pressure		30.7%	45,960
Percent adults with high cholesterol		39.26%	41,078
Estimated adults drinking excessively		21.2%	29,642
Percent population with no physical activity		23%	35,349
Percent adults with asthma		18.3%	27,345
Medicare population with depression		18.3	4,082
Adults diagnosed with diabetes		9.4%	15,912
Percent adults with heart disease		3.9%	5,773
Adults with poor general health		18.8%	29,343
Adults with poor dental health		19.6%	29,171

Summary

For many years, Community Resources has become a primary provider of Employment Supports, Rent, Weatherization and Utility Assistance in Sangamon County. Community Resources was already a provider of many stabilizing social services in Sangamon County, and an active partner with many other social service, health and education agencies. Perhaps one of the most promising strategies for better addressing local community needs is through strategic collective impact. The more that Community Resources and partner agencies are able to work together to meet the county's greatest needs, the more effectively these needs will be met. At the same time, job creation and job training would best address the many issues discussed in this assessment. The county had far fewer needs when many residents without college educations had relatively high-paying jobs in State of Illinois Employment. But most of these job vacancies have not been filled. Residents who cannot find employment or formerly worked in these jobs need the training and opportunity to find living wage jobs in the medical sector as well as knowledge of career paths in the medical sector. Even though Community Resources is not an employment agency, we are a job training agency and staff can help clients connect with the job seeking services they need to improve their wages and employability.