

Transition to Stability and Self-Sufficiency
A Nevada ROMA Report on the Impact of CSBG Funded Programs and Services
on Nevada's Low Income Population
July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017

Background

The Nevada Community Action Network is comprised of 12 Community Action Agencies that provide a range of social services to Nevada's low income population. Each agency receives Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds in addition to funds from other public and private entities.

The Network provides services based on client income and need. Eligible clients cannot have income greater than 125% of the federal poverty level and need is determined by initial placement on 12 scales of well-being. These 12 scales collectively are known as the Nevada Primary Assessment and are administered to all clients as part of the initial Intake and Assessment process. These scales in alphabetical order are:

- Early Childhood Education
- Education-Adults/Youth (Over 18)
- Energy and Utilities (Renamed from Energy)
- Employment
- Food and Nutrition
- Household Budgeting
- Housing
- Health Insurance-Children
- Health Insurance-Adults
- Human Services* (Renamed from Ancillary Services)
- Primary Healthcare
- Transportation

The first or initial assessment is the baseline from which all change is measured. A client's placement on the initial assessment(s) helps determine whether a service is provided and the type of service. An outcome can only be achieved after provision of a service. A follow-up or reassessment is either conducted immediately after provision of the service (known as the quick assessment) or no longer than 90 days after the service is provided. It is the documentation from these reassessments using the same Nevada Primary Assessment that indicates achievement of an outcome which is how impact is measured.

*The original scale, Ancillary Services was renamed Human Services to reflect the rich mix of human services provided by the agencies that do not fit into the other 11 scales. The list of human services provided by the agencies is found in [Appendix One-Human Services](#).

What is Impact?

Impact is defined as a positive change in status measured by movement from initial placement below to above the Prevention Line. In the sample Food and Nutrition scale below, one of the 12 scales of the Nevada Primary Assessment, there are five benchmarks separated by a Prevention Line:

- Thriving
 - Safe
 - Stable
- Prevention Line
- Vulnerable
 - In-Crisis

Benchmarks below the Prevention Line are considered measures of dependence and benchmarks above the Prevention Line are considered measures of independence. Independence ranges from Stability labeled as Stable to Self-Sufficiency labeled as Thriving.

Many of the services are provided to persons whose initial placement is below the Prevention Line. These are persons most in need and it is expected that these basic services will help support the person towards achieving stability, a fundamental goal of Community Action Agencies. Stability is the foundation for well-being and is essential to any future movement towards self-sufficiency.

Services are also provided to persons whose initial placement is above the Prevention Line in Stable. These are persons who are able to maintain stability with basic services provided by the agency.

Benchmarks	Food and Nutrition	Score
Thriving	Able to afford any food choices without food programs	10
Safe	Able to afford most food choices without food programs	8
Stable	Able to obtain basic food through enrollment or re-enrollment in SNAP, WIC or participation in other public food programs	6
Prevention Line		
Vulnerable	Has SNAP, WIC or other public food programs; needs to reapply to continue benefits	4
	Unable to afford food; uses a food bank, pantry or vouchers	3
In-Crisis	Unable to afford or obtain sufficient food	1

For example, positive impact occurs when:

- the client moves up the scale from any benchmark upon receipt of a food service.
- the client moves from below to above the Prevention Line upon receipt of a food service.

The Methodology

The methodology used in this report addresses two questions:

- How many clients came in below the Prevention Line on the initial assessment? This is the denominator or “D”.
- Of those same clients that came in below the Prevention Line on the initial assessment, how many moved above the Prevention Line following receipt of a service? This is the numerator or “N”.

$$\frac{\text{\# same clients below Prevention Line that moved above the Prevention Line (N)}}{\text{\# clients below Prevention Line on initial assessment (D)}}$$

For example, to measure positive change, a percentage was calculated using the above equation:

$$\frac{30 \text{ same clients below Prevention Line that moved above the Prevention Line (N)}}{100 \text{ clients below Prevention Line on initial assessment (D)}}$$

The above calculation indicates that 30% of persons initially assessed below the Prevention Line moved above the Prevention Line following receipt of a service. This represents movement from a state of dependence to independence characterized by achieving stability or moving up the scale to increased self-sufficiency.

In order to achieve the statewide statistics, the numbers (numerators and denominators) from all 12 agencies were first aggregated or added together and then the percent change was calculated.

Impact data for this report is based on 33,206 reassessments conducted by the 12 Community Action agencies across the entire state of Nevada during the period, July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017.

Findings

Positive change was found across all 12 scales of the Nevada Primary Assessment.

The percent changes are in descending order beginning with the largest percent change.

The 12 scales are arranged in four groups because the range of the numbers is similar.

Group One

- 35.10%-Energy and Utilities
- 33.20%-Early Childhood Education
- 33.02%-Human Services

Group Two

- 16.33%-Housing
- 15.00%-Food and Nutrition
- 13.56%-Employment

Group Three

- 8.54%-Health Insurance-Children
- 8.53%-Health Insurance-Adults
- 8.47%-Primary Healthcare

Group Four

- 7.82%-Household Budgeting
- 5.15%-Transportation
- 4.15%-Education-Adults/Youth (Over 18)

The actual numbers used to calculate the percentage changes are in the table on Appendix Two-Transition to Stability and Self-Sufficiency.

Conclusion

The State of Nevada's CSBG program is able to demonstrate the positive impact it has on the lives of its low-income population. A next step would be a subsequent report on the services that supported clients in their positive change from dependency to stability and transition to self-sufficiency.

Appendix One-Human Services

Human Services Provided Directly by Nevada's Community Action Agencies or by Referral to Other Community Based Organizations

Programs, Services and Basic Needs

- Angel Tree-Christmas Gifts for Children
- Annual Memberships
- Application Assistance-Protective Order
- Aging & Disability Services
- Backpack Program-Back to School Supplies
- Basic Needs
- Birth Certificate
- Car Seats
- Children's Disability Support Services
- Child Protection Services
- Class Fees/Expenses (cost of class or training)
- Class Required Supplies
- Clothing
- Cribs for Kids
- Community Service
- Computer Lab Access
- County Abandoned Body Burial
- Cremation
- Diapers
- Disconnect Assistance
- Domestic Violence
- Elder Protective Reports
- Enrollment Fees
- Furniture
- Guardianship
- Home Visiting Service
- Homemaker Services
- Informational Seminars on Community Access
- Intergenerational Activities
- Jacket Program-Jackets for Children or Adults
- Life Skills Workshop
- Legal Assistance
- Life Skills Coaching
- Life Skills Workshop
- Mentoring
- Outreach
- Public Guardian

- Senior Community Opportunities
- Recreation
- Resource Liaison
- Thrift Store Vouchers
- Utility Assistance-Water/Sewer
- Veteran Burial Services
- Veterans Support Services
- Victim Assistance
- Victim Support
- Walmart Gift Card

Appendix Two-Transition to Stability and Self-Sufficiency		
Nevada Primary Assessment Scales	State	% Change
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line and moved above the Prevention Line-Energy/Utilities	569	
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line-Energy/Utilities	1621	35.10%
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line and moved above the Prevention Line-Early Childhood Ed	402	
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line-Early Childhood Ed	1211	33.20%
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line and moved above the Prevention Line-Human Services	602	
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line-Human Services	1823	33.02%
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line and moved above the Prevention Line-Housing	310	
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line-Housing	1898	16.33%
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line and moved above the Prevention Line-Food/Nutrition	443	
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line-Food/Nutrition	3268	15.00%
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line and moved above the Prevention Line-Employment	417	
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line-Employment	3036	13.56%
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line and moved above the Prevention Line-Health Insurance, Child	49	
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line-Health Insurance, Children	574	8.54%
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line and moved above the Prevention Line-Health Insurance, Adults	129	
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line-Health Insurance, Adults	1512	8.53%
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line and moved above the Prevention Line-Primary Healthcare	78	
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line-Primary Healthcare	921	8.47%
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line and moved above the Prevention Line-Household Budgeting	292	
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line-Household Budgeting	3736	7.82%
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line and moved above the Prevention Line-Transportation	53	
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line-Transportation	1030	5.14%
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line and moved above the Prevention Line- Education, Adults/Youth	41	
Number of clients who came in below the Prevention Line-Education, Adults/Youth	988	4.15%