Preparing Your Agency for Community Level Work

Population 379,172
48,976 people living in poverty
12,588 children living in poverty

13.6%
Something was Missing.....

Why Did We Do It?

Remember this????

https://youtu.be/kl2g40GoRxg?t=2575
CMCA utilizes community engagement as a tool to expand the community’s capacity to move families out of poverty.

CMCA educates the public that the need to help families in overcoming poverty lies within the community.

CMCA builds partnerships and collaborations to address local causes and conditions of poverty.
How we did it

Impact of Community Organizing work

Individual county examples
- Mexico Sustainability Project (Audrain)
- Expanded the responsibility for poverty and poverty services to a variety of service providers (Boone)
- Safe and Affordable Housing Taskforce (Callaway)
- Disaster Response (Cole)
- Workforce Development CAT (Cooper/Howard counties)
- Future Workforce Prep (Moniteau)
- OCADCAT (Osage)

Poverty in Audrain County (population 24,763)

Poverty rate: 17.24%
4,030 people living in poverty
1,493 children living in poverty
Mexico Sustainability Project
Partnership with Mexico Chamber of Commerce, employers, business owners, low wage workers
Implementation of Getting Ahead in an Just Getting’ by World Supports for low wage workers

Poverty in Boone County (population 174,589)
- Poverty rate: 15.1%
- 25,432 people living in poverty
- 4,778 children living in poverty

Boone County
Partnerships with local human service providers, the city of Columbia and local faith based organizations and churches
Strengthen local service providers to take on direct crisis services
Poverty in Callaway County (population 44,793)

- Poverty rate: 12.3%
- 5,033 people living in poverty
- 1,627 children living in poverty

Safe and Affordable Housing Taskforce

Created taskforce following the Community Needs Assessment in 2017 as housing was identified as a priority in Callaway County.
- Consist of local homeless shelter executive director, housing authority, low-income tenant, landlord, faith-based organization and city councilman.
- Data included low rental vacancy rates, high rental rates comparable to urban areas and decrease development since 2010.
- To increase the opportunities of safe and affordable housing in Callaway County through advocacy, education and development.

Poverty in Cole County (population 76,749)

- Poverty rate: 11.7%
- 8,399 people living in poverty
- 2,659 children living in poverty
Disaster Response

May 23, 2019 – an F-3 tornado tore through Cole County and the State Capitol, Jefferson City
Immediate response
Community coordination and collaboration efforts

Poverty in Cooper/Howard Counties (population 27,764)

- Poverty rate: 11.1%
- 3,108 people living in poverty
- 1,060 children living in poverty

Workforce Development CAT

Partnership with local school districts, community members, employers
Serve the area through facilitating conversations; developing strategic partnerships; and hosting life-skill and workforce readiness training and events for the purpose of strengthening the economic health of the community.
Poverty in Moniteau County (population 15,904)

- Poverty rate: 12.0%
- 1,757 people living in poverty
- 647 children living in poverty

Future Workforce Prep

Partnership with Moniteau County Regional Economic Development group, public schools, local businesses

Create learning opportunities for high school students to learn about employment opportunities, requirements and expectations available through local employers for post-high school graduation employment

Create opportunity for local employers to showcase their industries to future workforce

Poverty in Osage County (population 13,610)

- Poverty rate: 9.2%
- 1,217 people living in poverty
- 324 children living in poverty
OCADCAT
Partnership with local public schools, local Health Department, law enforcement, mental health providers, local anti-drug organizations
Create reduce the level of drug and alcohol use among youth and adults within the county and create locally available substance abuse resources

Frustrations/Challenges of the work
There is no rule book...there really is no manual
Strategies can change on a dime. Flexibility is a must!
Each community is different – “scripts” don’t work in community work.
Last bit of Advice

JUST DO IT.

Angela Hirsch, Chief Program Officer
Kelley Lucero, Boone County Community Organizer
Kelle Pontius, Callaway County Community Organizer
Stefani Thompson, Cole/Moniteau County Community Organizer
Audrey Phelps, Cooper/Howard Community Organizer
Martha Ray, Osage County Community Organizer

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." ~Margaret Mead