

Texoma Council of Governments

11-2015 Texoma Needs Assessment

A Study of Unmet Needs for Low-Income
Texomans who Seek Self-Sufficiency



Executive Summary

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This study explores and identifies the top needs for low income Texomans who gain self-sufficiency. The researchers sought to explore the facets of poverty in each county of Texoma: Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson; and identify the top needs and most critical services in each. In order to explore these issues, the research process focused around 3 primary and secondary research questions:

1. What are the elements of poverty and the services that assist Texomans to achieve self-sufficiency?
2. Have conditions changed since 2005, the most recent assessment of poverty and self-sufficiency in Texoma?
3. Are there differences in the perceived experience of poverty and the actual conditions or experience of poverty?

The primary staff that prepared this study employed a number of qualitative research methods in order to explore and collect information concerning the identified research questions. Staff chose to use contextual study, semi-structured key informant interviews, and a community-wide survey for their investigation. These various techniques were used in succession, progressing through three stages: first, a period of information gathering of relevant background information; second, a period of gathering information; and third, a period of analyzing and interpreting findings.

The results of this study produced a list of identified needs and critical services for each county in Texoma and provides insights into the causes of poverty. Results demonstrate that there is very little variance among the three counties of Texoma, but that further study should be conducted to explore the causes of the identified critical needs facing low income Texomans. We have concluded that the most critical need for low income Texomans is employment opportunities. This includes increased employment opportunities and employment skills.

