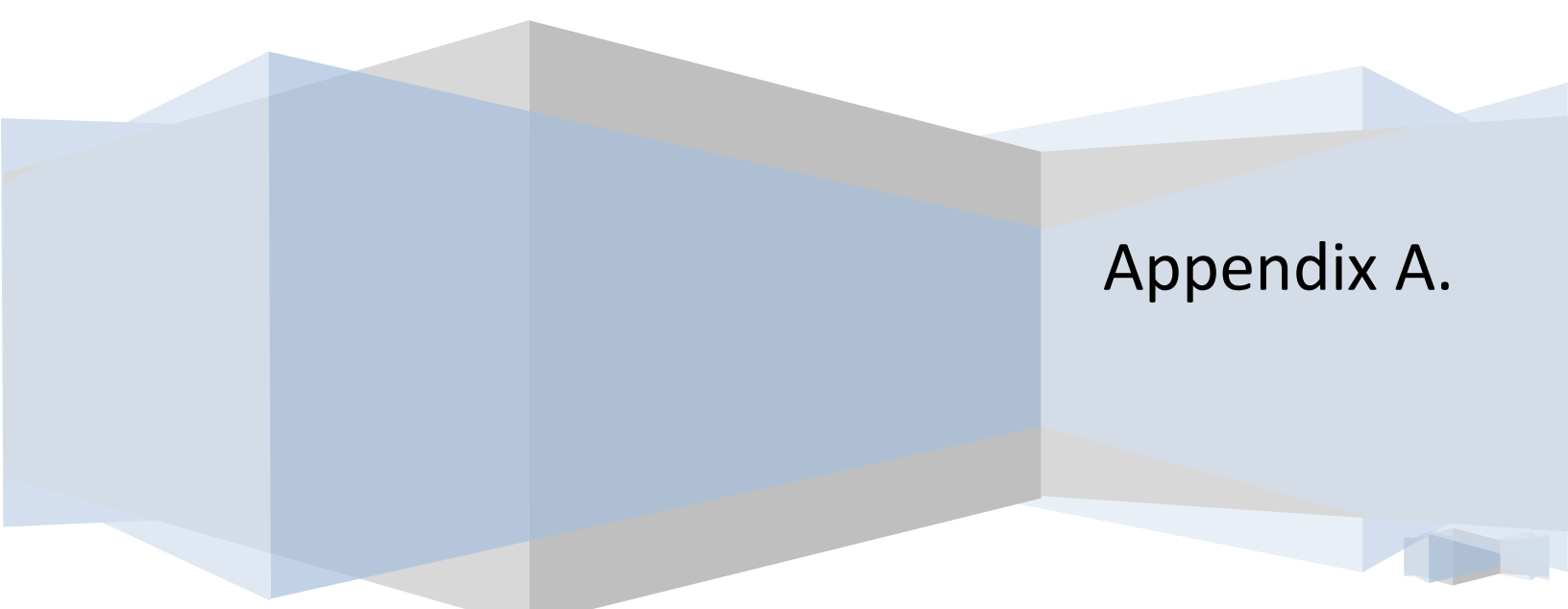


Texoma Council of Governments

# 2011-2015 Texoma Needs Assessment

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



Appendix A.

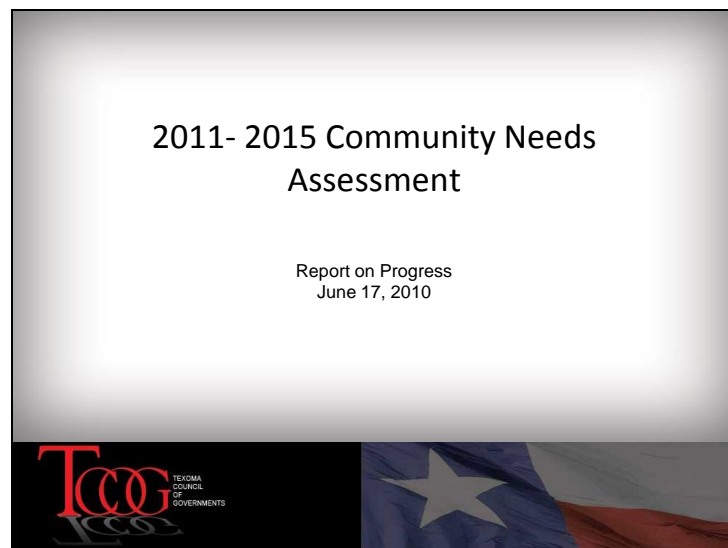
## 4. APPENDIX



## APPENDIX A. OUTREACH DOCUMENTS

### Report on Progress June 17, 2010 Texoma COG Governing Body


Slide 1



Why a Community Needs Assessment?

Objectives:

- 1) Identify possible gaps in services
- 2) Outline of community needs and satisfaction with current services and procedures.
- 3) Information and data as a resource for area agencies

The bottom of the slide features a dark banner. On the left is the TCOG logo, which includes the letters 'TCOG' in a stylized red font and the text 'TEXOMA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' in a smaller white font. On the right is a portion of the Texas state flag, showing the blue field with a white star and the red and white stripes.

-A CNA can be viewed in two ways

- 1) Process of citizen involvement to allow people not only to learn more about current political, cultural, and economic changes
- 2) Help local leaders- public, private, and non-profit- identify needs for new facilities or services
  - Assess public opinion about community goals and priorities
  - Provide information useful for current program evaluation
  - Increase citizen understanding of community problems and their effects on the community

-Opportunity for TCOG to be responsive to citizen preferences, concerns, and needs.

-The Community Needs Assessment is a means of involving the public in problem solving and the process of developing local goals.



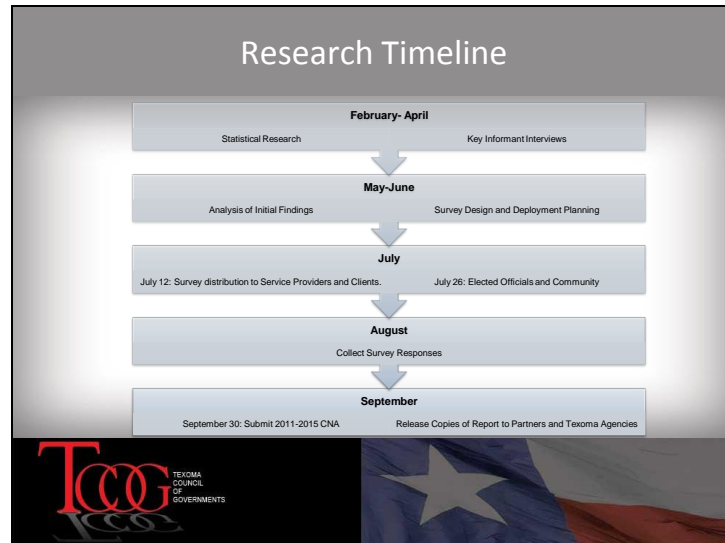


Objectives- Who will be using this information and how, what information is already available (public resources) has driven research to focus on primary research → Key Informant and Community Survey

The Statistical Research and Key Informant Interviews are almost complete and the Survey will be distributed in late July.



Slide 4



Started with background research to build a context for information that already exists and may be of use to area agencies → Statistical Research

Key Informant Interviews with Service Providers provided information about the depth and history of issues in their communities





## Statistical Research

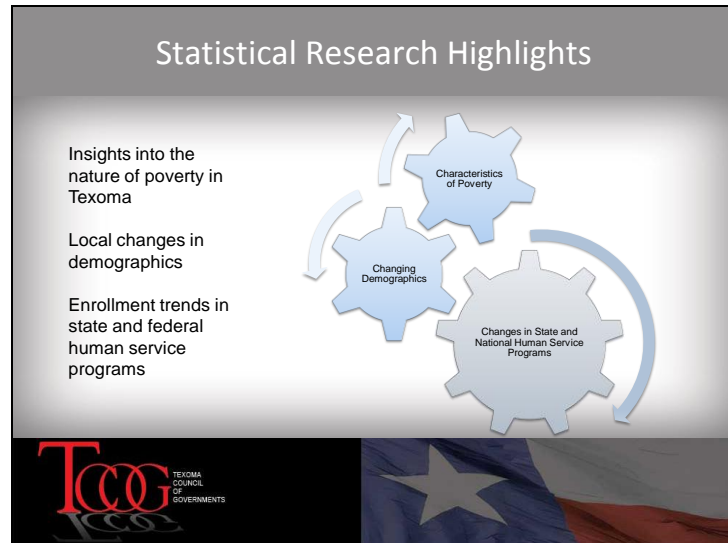
Objective:

- 1) Contextual information & analysis for study
- 2) Data resource for area agencies

Review of public data:

- Population
- Income, earnings, employment figures
- Education, school district drop out rates, literacy rates
- Health Care, CHIP, Medicare, Medicaid enrollment figures.





Many of our local non-profit agencies are providing services in their communities that compliment state and federal programs.

As poverty guidelines are adjusted and local characteristics of poverty change, the occasion to adjust programs and local policies arise.






### Key Informant Interviews

**Objective:**  
Gain valuable information from local organizations that have direct contact with low income individuals in Texoma.

**Research Approach:**  
Semi structured interviews with service providers.

The bottom of the slide features a dark horizontal band. On the left is the Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) logo, which includes the letters 'TCOG' in a stylized red font and the full name 'TEXOMA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' in smaller white text. To the right of the logo is a portion of the Texas state flag, showing the white star on a blue field and the red and white stripes.

### Service Providers and Partners

- TCOG Area Agency on Aging, Elder Rights/ Benefits Counselors
- Workforce Solutions Texoma
- North Texas Youth Connection
- Sherman Housing Authority
- Texoma Area Paratransit System (TAPS)
- TCOG Family Self Sufficiency
- Abigail's Arms
- VISTO
- United Way Cooke County
- United Way Grayson County
- Grayson County Social Services Association
- Texoma Homelessness Coalition

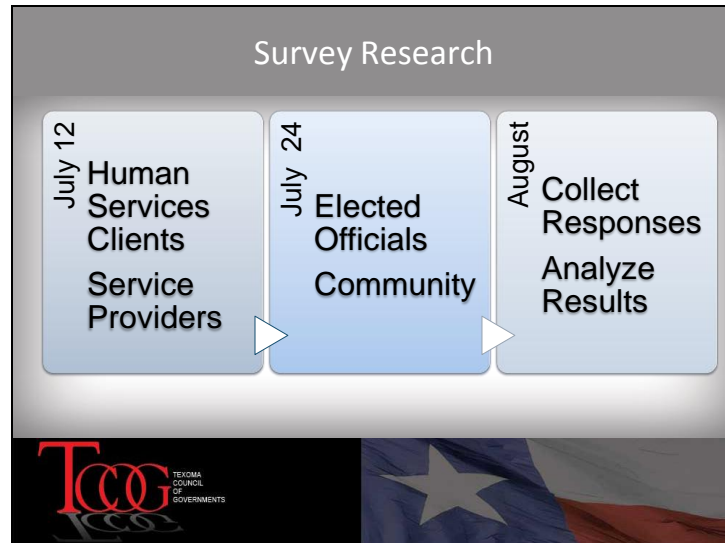


### Key Informant Interview Highlights

- Critical needs identified by interviewees:
  - Emergency and Transitional Housing
  - Transportation
  - Local Foster Homes
  - Affordable Childcare
  - Full-service Clinic
  - Drug Rehabilitation Services

Themes:  
1) Region-wide support for existing services in Texoma's smaller communities  
2) Critical services are sometimes 30 minutes to 1 hour away from client's home





Survey Research will be broken up into 4 major target populations

Human Service Clients  
Service Providers  
Elected Officials

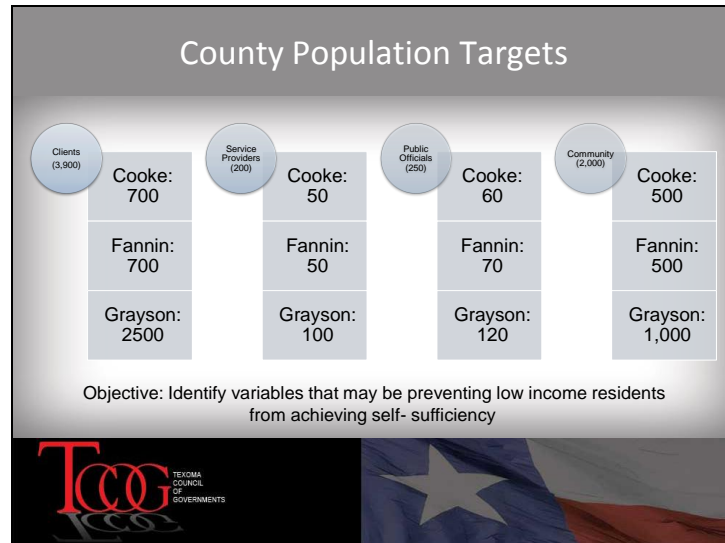
The goal is distribute targeted population surveys on these dates and analyze responses through the month of August.

Each target population will have similar surveys that attempt to capture their opinions and concerns about needs in their community and county.

Survey distribution will be appropriate for target population

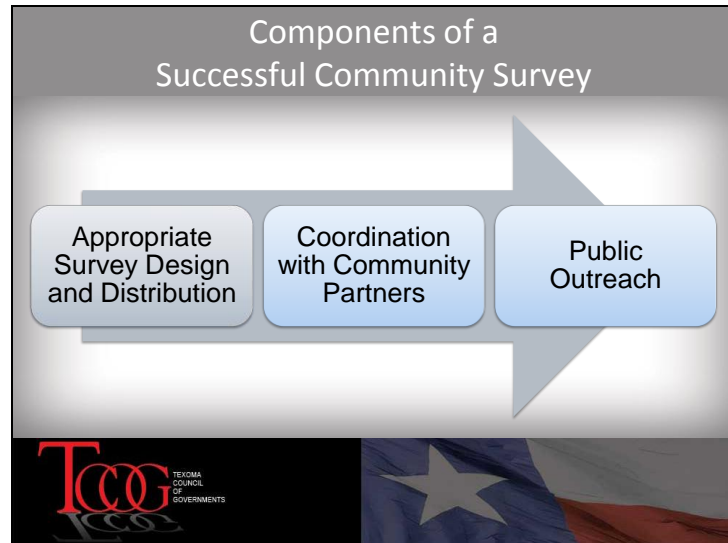
- Example: we are partnering with VISTO and Abigail's Arms to administer the survey during their intake of clients for the week of July 12<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup>





These are the estimated number of surveys based on target population size except for the community survey. Those are the minimum number of responses we desire.





Key to success will be appropriate design and coordinated distribution using community partnerships

Public outreach– getting the word out about the survey in order to get a desirable response rate

This will include working with partner agencies and public announcements at commissioners courts



## **TCOG meets for first time after configuration**

BY KATHY WILLIAMS

HERALD DEMOCRAT (Saturday, June 19, 2010)

Texoma Council of Governments' Governing Board elected Sherman City Councilor Cary Wacker as president of the redesigned organization during a meeting on Thursday. Texoma Council of Governments board amended its bylaws in April to bring it into compliance with state law, Texoma Council of Governments Executive Director Susan Thomas has stated.

The Governing Board also heard a detailed presentation from Community Development Planner Katie Cummins on the process of conducting a detailed community needs assessment.

The board also elected Cooke County Commissioner Al Smith to serve as vice president and Grayson County Commissioner Johnny Waldrup as secretary-treasurer.

Thomas took some time Thursday to welcome the new members of the board and to explain the structure of electronic agenda packets and other information available on Texoma Council of Governments' website at [www.texoma.cog.tx.us](http://www.texoma.cog.tx.us). The website also has been re-designed and will continue to undergo improvements in the near future. The information is available to the public as well as the board and contains schedules of advisory board meetings, details of how federal stimulus package money is spent locally.

Thomas also introduced the board to department and program directors present at the meeting. She said that at least one of these directors will report at each meeting to keep the board apprised of the agency's activities. The board heard Thursday from three staff leaders. First up was Cummins, who explained how different groups will be contacted to provide information for the Community Needs Assessment, the methodology of the assessment, and how that information will be used.

Cummins said that the assessment is designed to meet three needs: To identify possible gaps in services; to provide information and data as a resource for area agencies and to outline



community needs and satisfaction with current services and procedures. TCOG staff researched the survey February through April and planned its design in May and June. The appropriate forms of the survey will go out to service providers and clients and elected officials and community members in July 2010. Texoma Council of Governments will collect and analyze the survey in August 2010 and release copies of the report in September 2010.

Certain federal agencies that fund Texoma Council of Governments member cities, school districts and counties, as well as other local non-profits, require such a needs assessment be performed every five years. Cummins said Texoma Council of Governments' conducting such a comprehensive and reliable needs assessment will save time and work for agencies such as United Ways of Grayson and Cooke counties.

"This is a potential resource for folks in our area who might have to spend a lot of time on the U.S. Census website to support their grant applications. The CNA will provide preliminary insights into the nature of poverty here, demographic changes and enrollment in programs and barriers to getting services to people who need them."

Thomas said that the federal agency asking for the study, Community Services Development Block Grant, "will assist communities in identifying, addressing and alleviating the causes of poverty. In addition to being a program requirement, it also will be a useful tool to help us identify needs and gaps ... and provide an in-depth qualitative analysis of the programs."

The Community and Economic Development Director, Ryan Gleason, spoke of a similarly named, but different federal program, Community Development Block Grant. The funds help cities and towns with projects that benefit low and moderate income families and neighborhoods.

This year, some of the federal stimulus money earmarked for small towns in this region, did not get requested. Gleason explained that the scoring system for the grants led to some confusion





about whether they were worth the effort of applying. So he and others pleaded the case before state authorities to put more than \$100,000 in unused money back into Texoma designation to give local cities another shot at the funding. This in addition to new allotments could get some \$125,000 to \$150,000 projects approved.

Gleason said that communities in the three-county region that have projects they would like to have funded through CDBG money should act quickly. Information for reaching Gleason is available on the website listed below.

Housing and Client Services Director Allison Cardile also talked about money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus package, in this case helping regional, small housing authorities weatherize their properties. The stimulus money has gone to local private contractors, who turn the money over hiring workers and buying supplies and material for the work.

She said, through another program nearly \$2 million is going to help regional, small housing authorities perform "mini extreme makeovers" on public housing units.

The board also approved applying for a grant to hold a household hazardous waste collection event and to ask the three counties to contribute to the matching funds. Counties will get a request for up to \$20,000. However, counties only match for the number of their residents that participate and no county has paid the maximum during past events. All three counties will pay an equal amount per participant.





# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## TEXOMA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS WORKS TO REDUCE POVERTY IN THE TEXOMA REGION

### *Reducing Poverty Requires Studying Its Causes*

Sherman, August 3, 2010 – Dr. Susan B. Thomas, Executive Director of the Texoma Council of Governments, announced that the Council is entering a new phase in the effort to identify the causes and conditions of poverty in the Texoma Region. To that end, the Texoma COG is releasing surveys for the 2011-2015 Texoma Needs Assessment.

"Every five years the Texoma Council of Governments conducts a region-wide assessment of the nature of poverty and social services in Texoma," Dr. Thomas said. "The information gathered through this survey will help communities identify ways in which to address and alleviate poverty. The timing of this study is especially appropriate given the stresses many Texomans are experiencing due to the recent economic downturn."

Residents across the region are invited to complete the Texoma Needs Assessment Survey by August 31<sup>st</sup>. The survey can be found online at [www.tcog.com](http://www.tcog.com) or at any of a number of locations around the tri-county area and takes less than ten minutes to complete. The survey results will appear in the 2011-2015 Texoma Needs Assessment that will be released to the public later this fall.

#### Survey Locations

##### Region-wide

TAPS Buses

Workforce Solutions Texoma Resource Rooms

Meals on Wheels of Texoma Locations

##### Cooke County

Cooke County Courthouse

Gainesville Public Library

Gainesville Chamber of Commerce

Gainesville City Hall

Muenster Public Library

##### Fannin County

All Fannin County Kwik Check Locations

Fannin County Vehicle Registration and Tax Office

Bonham Chamber of Commerce

Bonham Public Library

Goodwill Industries Bonham Location

Honey Grove City Hall

Leonard City Hall



Grayson County

Collinsville City Hall

Denison City Hall

Denison Public Library

Grayson County Vehicle Registration Office

Grayson County South Government Center (Van Alstyne)

Pottsboro City Hall

Sherman Parks and Recreation Office

Sherman Utility Billing Department

Van Alstyne Public Library

Whitesboro City Hall

Whitesboro Public Library

The Texoma Council of Governments is a voluntary association of the local governments in Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties. Established in 1968, the Texoma Council of Governments promotes economy and efficiency in the coordinated planning and development of the tri-county region through its community and economic development activities. Either directly, or through contractors, the Council provides housing, utility assistance, and weatherization services for low-income citizens in the region and assists the elderly through a variety of Area Agency on Aging programs. The Council also facilitates the delivery of grant funding for homeland security, criminal justice, transportation needs.

Contact: Katy Cummins, Community Development Planner  
903.813.3530  
[kcummins@texoma.org](mailto:kcummins@texoma.org)

News organizations are welcome to place a link to the survey on their websites. Please use the following code to do so: <[a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3SYQZPQ"](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3SYQZPQ)>Click here to take survey</a>.

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