

Shippensburg, PA

Community Assessment

2014

Executive Summary



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About Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition

The Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition (SCRC) is a collaborative effort to provide quality social services and youth programs that are accessible and safe and that recognize the dignity and worth of each person. Our goal is to help community members reach their full potential.

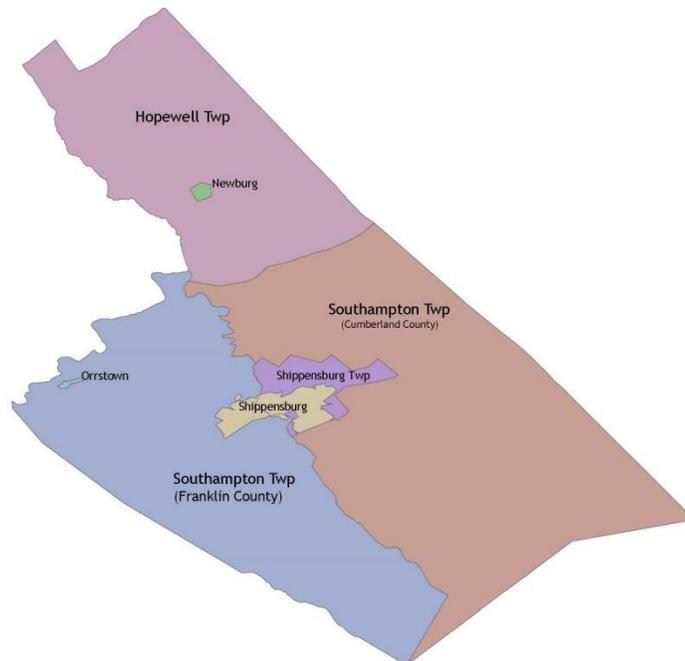
The Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition (SCRC) Committee developed from an ad hoc group of community stakeholders and has grown to a group of over 75 people who are interested in establishing the SCRC. The SCRC Board of Directors began meeting in July 2012 and now operates under the fiscal umbrella of the Shippensburg University Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

The purpose of the Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition is to provide a central location for access to social services, counseling and youth programming. The coalition could be a resource for a wide variety of community members, whether they are searching for tutoring, recreational activities, food, clothing, counseling or access to the county and private social service programs.

For additional information on the SCRC, visit shipresources.org. For the full Community Assessment Final Report, please contact the SCRC at shippensburgcrc@gmail.com.

Executive Summary

The Community Assessment was developed as a result of a strategic planning process of the Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition (SCRC) that occurred in 2013. There have been several community assessments in the surrounding areas that included Shippensburg, but were not exclusively focused on Shippensburg. The SCRC Board of Directors recognized the need to conduct an assessment that would help plan programs and secure funding for future endeavors. The SCRC Community Assessment Committee was formed and the planning ensued. Early in the planning process, the community was geographically defined by the lines of the Shippensburg Area School District (SASD). Throughout the report, this area will be identified as the "Shippensburg area." This Executive Summary provides a summarized version of the full report. The full report is available by contacting the SCRC or visiting www.shipresources.org.



The committee decided to collect data in multiple ways in order to understand more about the social service and youth programming needs of Shippensburg. These methods included a survey, focus groups and review of existing data. After developing the survey, which was adapted from the United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County's Community Needs Assessment, there were several kickoff meetings to ask for assistance with survey distribution and spread awareness about the plans. The review of existing data occurred throughout the project timeframe. The other data was collected and analyzed as follows:

July - October 2013	Surveys distributed via at least 46 organizations.
October-November 2013	Focus groups conducted
February-May 2014	Survey & focus group results analyzed
May-October 2014	Final report written

Demographic Information

Most of the demographic information in this section is from the United States Census Bureau. Data from other sources is noted as such. The total population within the SASD boundaries in 2010 was 27,920 people, which is an increase of just over 4,000 people from 2000. The population of Shippensburg area has a younger median age (29.8 years) than the state median (40.1 years), perhaps because Shippensburg University is located in the town. However, the percentage of youth under the age of 18 is lower (10%) than that of the state (21.3%). It is a predominantly White/Caucasian area, with 93.2% of the population. The Black/African American population is 3.5% and Hispanic/Latino is 2.8%.

The poverty rate for persons and families in the Shippensburg area is 19.75% (2008-2012) which is 7% higher than previous measures (2006-2010) and higher than the state's rate of 13.06%. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the rate of children and teens who qualified for free or reduced lunches has increased every year since 2008-2009. In 2012-2013, 35.4% of students in the district qualified for free or reduced lunch rates. The numbers of individuals who qualify for medical assistance has also increased since 2008. In 2012, 14% of the population qualified for medical assistance. Finally, the median household income is \$47,314 which is lower than the state's median of \$52,267. The unemployment rate of the Shippensburg area, 4.5%, is lower than the state's rate of 8.5%.

The Shippensburg area is slightly less educated than the state with 20.4% of the population attaining a bachelor's degree or higher (27.0% for PA) and more of the population not completing 9th grade (6.4%) than Pennsylvania (3.8%). The school district is facing some of the same challenges as neighboring districts (Chambersburg and Carlisle) in not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress targets for Academic Performance and Graduation.

Community Survey

The survey questions were aimed at learning more about how satisfied residents are with the human services and youth programs that are available in Shippensburg and the importance of providing these programs and services. There were also questions designed to elicit ideas for new programs and services. There were 446 completed surveys. The surveys were available both online and in paper version. The survey results should be applied cautiously to the general population because there were several demographic differences between the survey sample and Census data.

Overall, survey respondents were satisfied with the services and opportunities in Shippensburg. The areas that had the highest levels of satisfaction included community safety, access to quality housing and quality of early childhood education. It was also clear that many residents feel there is a strong sense of community and that the educational institutions and community safety are strengths of the area.

The four items that indicated some level of dissatisfaction included indoor recreational facilities, shelters for people who are homeless, services specific to youth and availability of

supervised after school youth activities. When asked about the biggest problem or issue in Shippensburg, the most common responses were lack of youth activities, human services and drug and alcohol services.

Survey respondents generally felt that it was important that all 24 of the services and programs listed on the survey were available within the Shippensburg area. Those with the highest level of importance included affordable medical services, employment opportunities for adults and quality early childhood education. Those identified as least important (but still identified as important according to respondents) were programs to improve ethnic and racial harmony, support groups, and opportunities for adult education.

In order to understand more about program and service needs in the Shippensburg area, we defined need as a service that is ranked as important, but that people indicate they are not satisfied with. By examining the services that had high importance scores, but lower satisfaction scores, we could more clearly identify needs. These included:

- services for youth, especially after school and recreational activities
- affordable mental and physical health care services
- services to increase employment and reduce poverty, especially among people who are homeless

Survey respondents were able to provide ideas for programs and services in Shippensburg, particularly related to youth programs, support groups and social services. Suggestions for support groups included:

- family support groups
- substance abuse support groups
- mental health support groups
- youth-related support groups
- grief support groups
- domestic violence support groups

When asked about youth-related services and programs, many survey respondents indicated that something needed to be done to help youth have something to do, but did not have specific ideas. There were mixed responses regarding sports-related programs. Some respondents said that they were needed, while others indicated that programs that were not sports-related were needed. Other ideas were offered such as:

- School-based after school programs
- Youth center/indoor recreation
- Training programs
- Summer programs
- Crime prevention programs
- Tutoring programs
- Mentoring programs
- Arts programs

Finally, the most popular suggestions for social service programs were as follows:

- Homeless and poverty-related services

- Services for older adults
- Mental health services

Focus Groups

Nine focus groups were conducted in order to learn more about what people already know about social services and youth programs, what their concerns are and what needs to be done to address these concerns. The focus groups were held in a variety of locations throughout Shippensburg in order to hear from a diverse group of residents and stakeholders.

The human service programs that focus group participants were most familiar with included King's Kettle, Shippensburg Produce and Outreach (SPO), Christ Among Neighbors and the free meals available at churches. The youth programs that participants most frequently identified included library programs, church youth groups and athletic programs. Participants generally seemed aware that there are few social services available and that transportation was necessary to get to most other types of social services in neighboring communities.

At times, there was lack of awareness and/or confusion about social services in terms of eligibility and how to access them. For example, at least one participant thought he had to be homeless to go to one of the free meals based on "word of mouth" information. There was also confusion about how to use the existing transportation, such as the Raider bus, and feedback that service was limited. Some participants identified barriers such as the difficulty of taking children along when waiting in food distribution lines and a sense of pride that prohibits people from asking for help. Overall, one of the clearest barriers to accessing social services is transportation because so many of the programs are located in other towns and the public transportation to the programs in town is limited or confusing.

The participants were asked to identify the most important need to address in Shippensburg. Limited transportation was the most commonly identified need. Transportation is related to employment, health care access, youth activities and participation in existing social service programs. Other needs that were identified included health services, services for senior citizens, services for people with disabilities, the need for community involvement and awareness, basic needs assistance and youth services.

Focus group participants identified several ideas for how to address problems in Shippensburg:

- Partnership efforts with Shippensburg University
- Church activities and opportunities
- Community volunteers
- Clear instructions for public transportation that is available
- Better advertisement of services and community activities

Recommendations

Based on the overall results of the community assessment, the following strengths of the Shippensburg area include:

- Strong sense of a safe community
- A large young adult population
- Existing institutions such as Shippensburg University, Shippensburg Area School District and the churches are viewed as helping to meet community needs and as potential solutions to problems and issues.

The following challenges are identified:

- Increasing poverty rates that are higher than the state average. Also, increasing numbers of children experiencing poverty.
- Limited transportation and lack of awareness about what is available
- Few social service programs available in Shippensburg and limited awareness about the programs that exist.
- No indoor, public recreational facility or community center for youth programs and social services.
- Homelessness is identified as an increasing problem.

The strengths can be helpful in addressing the challenges. For example, the strong sense of community and active participation of the community churches can be leveraged to increase awareness of existing social services and increase the number of youth programs. Shippensburg University, and the students who attend, provide an important partnership opportunity for youth programs and social services. The overall recommendations based on this report include:

- Increase awareness and access to existing social services available in Shippensburg.
- Increase awareness of how to access social services available in Chambersburg and Carlisle.
- Increase community awareness of how to use public transportation and continue working on strategies to help people get to work, appointments, programs, etc.
- Develop programs specifically related to poverty, employment and homelessness that are accessible within the town.
- Increase awareness and access to existing youth programs.
- Develop new youth programs, particularly related to mentoring and after school programs.
- Establish an indoor recreational facility that would be available to the community.
- Increase access to affordable mental and physical health opportunities. This may mean creating new services in town, such as support groups, or increasing access to nearby services.
- Continue to collect information about the need for services for older adults, survivors of domestic violence and drug/alcohol services.

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Demographic Overview



Population Under Age 18 years

Male	2010 Census	Female	2010 Census
Under 5	843	Under 5	801
5 to 9 years	815	5 to 9 years	804
10 to 14 years	851	10 to 14 years	820
15 to 17 years	504	15 to 17 years	483
18 to 19 years	1115	18 to 19 years	1624

Population by Gender

Population by Gender	Estimate	Percent
Total population	27,920	27,920
Male	13,604	48.7%
Female	14,316	51.3%

Population by Race

RACE	Estimate	Percent
White	26,018	93.2%
Black or African American	985	3.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	16	0.1%
Asian	151	0.5%
Asian Indian	9	0.0%
Chinese	38	0.1%
Filipino	42	0.2%
Japanese	4	0.0%
Korean	15	0.1%
Vietnamese	20	0.1%
Other Asian	23	0.1%
Some other race	151	0.5%
Two or more races	599	2.1%
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Total population	27,920	27,920
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	771	2.8%
Mexican	238	0.9%
Puerto Rican	317	1.1%
Cuban	9	0.0%
Other Hispanic or Latino	207	0.7%
Not Hispanic or Latino	27,149	97.2%

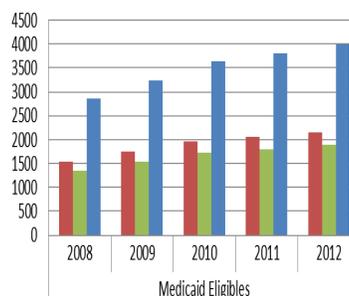
Population by Age

Age	Estimate	Percent
Under 5 years	1,783	6.4%
5 to 9 years	1,609	5.8%
10 to 14 years	1,600	5.7%
15 to 19 years	3,339	12.0%
20 to 24 years	4,014	14.4%
25 to 34 years	3,187	11.4%
35 to 44 years	2,992	10.7%
45 to 54 years	3,231	11.6%
55 to 59 years	1,615	5.8%
60 to 64 years	1,194	4.3%
65 to 74 years	1,873	6.7%
75 to 84 years	1,155	4.1%
85 years and over	328	1.2%
Median age (years)	29.8	(X)

Population Below Poverty

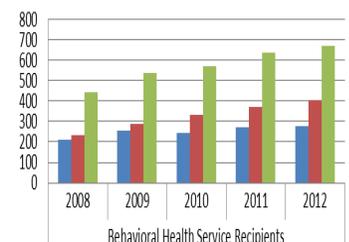
Years	Shippensburg Area School District	%	Pennsylvania	U.S.	
<u>2008-2012</u>	<u>Population in Poverty</u>	5,032	19.75%	13.06%	14.88%
	<u>Family in Poverty</u>	565	8.91%	9.06%	10.92%
<u>2006-2010</u>	<u>Population in Poverty</u>	3,087	12.75%	12.38%	13.82%
	<u>Family in Poverty</u>	355	5.67%	8.54%	10.08%
<u>2005-2009</u>	<u>Population in Poverty</u>	3,270	13.84%	12.10%	13.47%
	<u>Family in Poverty</u>	341	5.61%	8.31%	9.86%

Medicaid Eligible Individuals



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adult	1548	1760	1961	2050	2154
Child/Adolescent	1344	1529	1716	1793	1882
Total	2857	3248	3631	3796	3985

Medicaid Individuals Who Received a Behavioral Health Service



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adult	211	253	244	270	278
Child/Adolescent	235	290	332	371	403
Total	442	536	634	671	671

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Household Income 2011 (inflation of dollars)	Estimate	Percent
Total households	10,091	10,091
Less than \$10,000	778	7.7%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	680	6.7%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	990	9.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,223	12.1%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	1,573	15.6%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2,044	20.3%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,422	14.1%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,066	10.6%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	249	2.5%
\$200,000 or more	66	0.7%
Median household income (dollars)	47,314	(X)
Mean household income (dollars)	56,700	(X)

Families	6,408	6,408
Less than \$10,000	132	2.1%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	139	2.2%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	441	6.9%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	634	9.9%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	1,172	18.3%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,407	22.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,175	18.3%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,004	15.7%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	238	3.7%
\$200,000 or more	66	1.0%
Median family income (dollars)	61,615	(X)
Mean family income (dollars)	69,906	(X)

Occupation		
Population 16 years and over	22,583	22,583
In labor force	14,232	63.0%
Civilian labor force	14,192	62.8%
Employed	13,176	58.3%
Unemployed	1,016	4.5%
Armed Forces	40	0.2%
Not in labor force	8,351	37.0%

Households by Type	Esti- mate	Percent
Total households	10,091	10,091
Family households (families)	6,408	63.5%
With own children under 18 years	2,849	28.2%
Married-couple family	5,108	50.6%
With own children under 18 years	2,039	20.2%
Male householder, no wife present, family	454	4.5%
With own children under 18 years	303	3.0%
Female householder, no husband present, family	846	8.4%
With own children under 18 years	507	5.0%
Nonfamily households	3,683	36.5%
Householder living alone	2,645	26.2%
65 years and over	1,109	11.0%

Educational Attainment	Esti- mate	Per- cent
Population 25 years & over	15,575	15,575
Less than 9th grade	1,003	6.4%
9th to 12th grade, no di- ploma	1,740	11.2%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	6,240	40.1%
Some college, no degree	2,299	14.8%
Associate's degree	1,113	7.1%
Bachelor's degree	1,855	11.9%
Graduate or professional degree	1,325	8.5%

Assessment Area: Shippensburg Area School District, Pennsylvania
2007-2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

For the full SCRC Community Assessment of Shippensburg, please
visit the SCRC website: www.shipresource.org