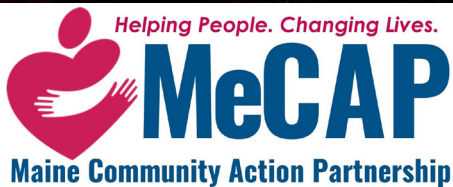




## Agency Data Profile

# Community Needs Assessment



## Community Concepts, Inc. Profile



### About Community Concepts Inc.

Since 1965, Community Concepts, Inc. has offered a variety of housing, economic development and social services for the communities of Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties of Maine. These services support both the basic needs of families and promotes self-sufficiency.

Community Concepts fosters economic development in Maine through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Community Concepts Finance Corporation. CCFC provides home and business loans and financial coaching and education to help people and businesses realize their financial goals.

Community Concepts' mission is to strengthen individuals, families and communities in Western Maine by providing diverse programs, by engaging in strategic partnerships, and through advocacy that addresses the barriers to promote economic opportunities for all.

Our vision is that all residents in Western Maine have an opportunity to achieve personal and financial fulfillment.

### Services Offered by Community Concepts Inc.

CCI programs and services work to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin Counties with a dynamic range of over 45 programs designed to help families increase self-sufficiency. Services are free and or are offered at affordable fees for those living with low to moderate incomes. Programs and services include childcare and family programs, home ownership programs, home energy and improvement programs, transportation services, workforce development programs and financial literacy, business advisory and lending services through CCI's subsidiary, Community Concepts Finance Corporation.

CCI operates 14 licensed Head Start and childcare centers in Oxford and Franklin Counties for children ages 0-5. Parenting support and prenatal support is offered in Oxford County as well as school-based counseling for teens and child abuse and neglect prevention programs. We operate nutritious food programs, and we provide assessment and case management services to families who have been reported to Child Protective Services.

Through our nationally recognized self-help program, income-eligible families can build their own home with the help of five other families in a program that runs across Androscoggin, Oxford, Franklin, Cumberland and Kennebec Counties, the only program of its kind north of Pennsylvania.

CCI offers education and support services including home buyer education, home loans, credit and foreclosure counseling, home energy evaluation, lead testing, abatement and home maintenance. CCI provides assistance in the areas of home heating and electricity assistance for those in danger of having no heat or electricity, vital services in cold Maine winters. Services can help to replace unsafe heating systems and address energy efficiency through home weatherization support.

CCI provides free access to transportation to vital medical appointments for income-eligible residents for MaineCare appointments, to Veterans for medical appointments, for cancer and dialysis treatments. Rides are free to anyone 60+ for medical appointments or for important needed services.

## Environmental Scan

The following tables provide an overview of the community that Community Concepts, Inc. (CCI) serves in their service area. For more detailed statewide data by county, please see the full 2021 MeCAP Statewide Community Needs Assessment.

Figure 1: Social Vulnerability Index

| Measure                                    | United States | Maine     | Androscoggin County | Franklin County | Oxford County |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Population</b>                          | 324,697,795   | 1,335,492 | 107,602             | 29,982          | 57,550        |
| <b>Median Age</b>                          | 38.1          | 44.7      | 40.1                | 46.3            | 47.0          |
| <b>Below Poverty</b>                       | 13.4%         | 11.8%     | 11.8%               | 11.5%           | 15.1%         |
| <b>Median Household Income</b>             | \$62,843      | \$57,918  | \$53,509            | \$51,422        | \$49,204      |
| <b>Age 65+</b>                             | 15.6%         | 20.0%     | 17.3%               | 21.5%           | 21.3%         |
| <b>Age 17 or Younger</b>                   | 22.6%         | 18.9%     | 21.8%               | 18.1%           | 18.7%         |
| <b>Unemployment (July 2021)</b>            | 5.4%          | 5.0%      | 5.8%                | 5.7%            | 5.9%          |
| <b>Households with Disability</b>          | 12.6%         | 16.0%     | 15.9%               | 15.5%           | 18.5%         |
| <b>Single Parent Household</b>             | 14.0%         | 21%       | 21%                 | 18%             | 19%           |
| <b>Speak English less than "very well"</b> | 8.4%          | 1.5%      | 2.3%                | 0.3%            | 0.5%          |
| <b>Housing Units - Mobile Homes %</b>      | 6.2%          | 9.5%      | 16.1%               | 18.6%           | 23.9%         |
| <b>No Vehicle</b>                          | 8.6%          | 7.1%      | 9.0%                | 5.7%            | 5.8%          |

SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates; 2021 County Health Rankings

Figure 2: Age and Demographics

| Measure                                    | United States | Maine | Androscoggin County | Franklin County | Oxford County |
|--|---------------|-------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Under 5 Years</b>                       | 6.1%          | 4.8%  | 5.9%                | 4.7%            | 4.4%          |
| <b>5 to 9 Years</b>                        | 6.2%          | 5.2%  | 6.2%                | 4.8%            | 5.1%          |
| <b>10 to 19</b>                            | 12.9%         | 11.3% | 12.4%               | 12.0%           | 11.3%         |
| <b>20 to 34</b>                            | 20.7%         | 17.5% | 18.2%               | 17.6%           | 15.0%         |
| <b>35 to 54</b>                            | 25.6%         | 25.3% | 25.8%               | 22.9%           | 25.4%         |
| <b>55 to 64</b>                            | 12.9%         | 15.7% | 14.2%               | 16.8%           | 17.6%         |
| <b>65+</b>                                 | 15.6%         | 20.0% | 17.3%               | 21.5%           | 21.3%         |
| <b>Race and Ethnicity</b>                  |               |       |                     |                 |               |
| <b>White alone, Not Hispanic or Latino</b> | 60.7%         | 98.3% | 96.2%               | 98.7%           | 98.7%         |
| <b>Hispanic or Latino</b>                  | 18.0%         | 1.7%  | 1.9%                | 1.3%            | 1.4%          |
| <b>Black or African American</b>           | 12.7%         | 2.0%  | 3.4%                | 0.8%            | 1.5%          |
| <b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>    | 0.8%          | 1.7%  | 3.9%                | 1.4%            | 2.2%          |
| <b>Asian</b>                               | 5.5%          | 1.7%  | 1.4%                | 0.8%            | 1.5%          |
| <b>Other</b>                               | 5.5%          | 0.4%  | 0.5%                | 0.4%            | 0.2%          |
| <b>Foreign Born Population</b>             | 13.3%         | 3.6%  | 3.5%                | 1.5%            | 1.5%          |

SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates

Figure 3: Household Income and Poverty

|   | United States | Maine    | Androscoggin County | Franklin County | Oxford County |
|---|---------------|----------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Median Household (HH) Income</b>                 | \$62,843      | \$57,918 | \$53,509            | \$51,422        | \$49,204      |
| <b>Total Below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)</b> | 13.4%         | 11.8%    | 11.8%               | 11.5%           | 15.1%         |
| <b>Under 5 years</b>                                | 20.3%         | 17.0%    | 18.5%               | 21.2%           | 30.3%         |
| <b>5 to 17 years</b>                                | 17.9%         | 14.4%    | 13.8%               | 11.9%           | 24.1%         |
| <b>18 to 34 years</b>                               | 16.3%         | 16.0%    | 15.9%               | 14.2%           | 20.8%         |
| <b>35 to 64 years</b>                               | 10.5%         | 9.9%     | 9.8%                | 9.9%            | 12.1%         |
| <b>65 years and over</b>                            | 9.3%          | 8.7%     | 7.4%                | 10.0%           | 7.8%          |
| <b>Below 50% of FPL</b>                             | 5.5%          | 4.0%     | 3.7%                | ND              | ND            |
| <b>Below 125% of FPL</b>                            | 16.3%         | 14.6%    | 13.0%               | ND              | ND            |
| <b>Below 150% of FPL</b>                            | 20.3%         | 18.6%    | 17.5%               | ND              | ND            |
| <b>Below 185% of FPL</b>                            | 26.3%         | 24.8%    | 25.5%               | ND              | ND            |
| <b>Below 200% of FPL</b>                            | 28.9%         | 27.7%    | 28.5%               | ND              | ND            |

SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates

Figure 4: Social Characteristics Measures

|   | United States | Maine   | Androscoggin County | Franklin County | Oxford County |
|---|---------------|---------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Total Households</b>                               | 120,756,048   | 559,921 | 45,630              | 11,848          | 21,338        |
| <b>Homeownership Percentage</b>                       | 64.0%         | 72.3%   | 64.3%               | 79.4%           | 80.8%         |
| <b>Single Parent Household<sup>1</sup></b>            | 14%           | 21%     | 23.9%               | 24.4%           | 22.9%         |
| <b>Living Alone</b>                                   | 13.3%         | 15.1%   | 16.2%               | 14.3%           | 12.4%         |
| <b>Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren</b>     | 34.1%         | 34.1%   | 29.0%               | 22.1%           | 31.2%         |
| <b>Veteran Status</b>                                 | 7.3%          | 9.6%    | 10.1%               | 11.2%           | 10.2%         |
| <b>Educational Attainment</b>                         |               |         |                     |                 |               |
| <b>Less than 9th grade</b>                            | 5.1%          | 2.6%    | 3.9%                | 1.5%            | 2.2%          |
| <b>9th to 12th grade, no diploma</b>                  | 6.9%          | 4.8%    | 5.9%                | 5.9%            | 5.9%          |
| <b>High school graduate/ GED</b>                      | 27.0%         | 31.5%   | 35.5%               | 38.0%           | 42.0%         |
| <b>Some college, no degree</b>                        | 20.4%         | 19.3%   | 20.5%               | 19.2%           | 19.4%         |
| <b>Associate degree</b>                               | 8.5%          | 10.1%   | 11.5%               | 10.6%           | 11.3%         |
| <b>Bachelor's degree</b>                              | 19.8%         | 20.0%   | 15.2%               | 15.6%           | 12.7%         |
| <b>Graduate degree</b>                                | 12.4%         | 11.8%   | 7.6%                | 9.2%            | 6.5%          |
| <b>HS Graduation rate (202)</b>                       | 88.0%         | 87.4%   |                     |                 |               |
| <b>No Health Insurance</b>                            | 8.8%          | 7.9%    | 8.0%                | 10.0%           | 8.8%          |
| <b>Receiving SNAP Benefits</b>                        | 11.7%         | 13.5%   | 16.8%               | 13.2%           | 16.3%         |
| <b>Food Insecurity – All Ages</b>                     | 10.9%         | 12.1%   | 18.5%               | 18.4%           | 22.9%         |
| <b>Median Mortgage (2019)</b>                         | \$1,595       | \$1,398 | \$1,350             | \$1,071         | \$1,146       |
| <b>Median Rent</b>                                    | \$1,062       | \$853   | \$771               | \$635           | \$713         |
| <b>Housing Cost Burdened<sup>2</sup></b>              | 32.88%        | 29.75%  | 30.44%              | 23.42%          | 30.10%        |
| <b>Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch</b> | 49.5%         | 38.3%   | 59.8%               | 38.1%           | 52.8%         |

SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates; Source: Feeding America, State-By-State Resource: The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity, 2019; Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center, County Graduation Rates 2014-2020 Maine.

<sup>1</sup> 2021 County Health Rankings.

<sup>2</sup> The percentage of households that spend 30% or more of their income on housing.

Figure 5: Health Overview

|   | United States | Maine   | Androscoggin County | Franklin County | Oxford County |
|---|---------------|---------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Poor Mental Health Days</b>                                  | 3.8           | 5.0     | 4.9                 | 4.6             | 4.8           |
| <b>Poor Physical Health Days</b>                                | 3.4           | 4.2     | 4.2                 | 4.0             | 4.5           |
| <b>Frequent Mental Health Distress</b>                          | 11.7%         | 12.7%   | 16%                 | 15%             | 16%           |
| <b>Ratio of Primary Care Providers</b>                          | 880:1         | 900:1   | 1,150:1             | 930:1           | 1,650:1       |
| <b>Ratio of Mental Health Providers</b>                         | 170:1         | 200:1   | 200:1               | 340:1           | 390:1         |
| <b>Ratio of Dentists</b>  | 1,210:1       | 1,480:1 | 1,800:1             | 2,750:1         | 2,760:1       |
| <b>Chronic Disease Prevalence (per 100,000)</b>                 |               |         |                     |                 |               |
| <b>Adults with Heart Disease</b>                                | 26.81%        | 22.48%  | 21.15%              | 20.83%          | 22.48%        |
| <b>High Blood Pressure</b>                                      | 57.20%        | 48.71%  | 44.67%              | 47.37%          | 48.86%        |
| <b>Adults with Asthma</b>                                       | 4.97%         | 4.68%   | 3.75%               | 4.52%           | 4.19%         |
| <b>Diagnosed Diabetes</b>                                       | 26.95%        | 22.55%  | 21.91%              | 23.53%          | 21.98%        |
| <b>Leading Causes of Death (deaths per 100,000)<sup>3</sup></b> |               |         |                     |                 |               |
| <b>Heart Disease</b>  | 166.0         | 147.9   | 165.0               | 151.5           | 138.9         |
| <b>Cancer</b>   | 155.5         | 169.2   | 179.0               | 180.6           | 183.2         |
| <b>Unintentional Injury</b>                                     | 45.7          | 59.1    | 56.4                | 56.0            | 54.6          |
| <b>Diabetes</b>   | 21.2          | 22.3    | 24.5                | 33.5            | 34.8          |
| <b>Alzheimer's</b>  | 29.4          | 27.6    | 53.2                | 24.0            | 26.8          |
| <b>Suicide Rates (Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000)</b>            | 14.5          | 18      | 17                  | 20              | 19            |
| <b>Adult Obesity Prevalence (Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000)</b> | 42.2          | 31.7    | 33.5                | 30.3            | 30.4          |
| <b>Maine Adults Past Month Binge Drinking</b>                   | 25.8%         | 17.9%   | 17%                 | 17.2%           | 14.8%         |
| <b>Percent Adults Current Smokers</b>                           | 16.1%         | 22.6    | 17.0%               | 18.1%           | 30.8%         |
| <b>COVID-19 Confirmed Cumulative Cases (as of 9/12/21)</b>      | 41.3M         | 57,752  | 6,281               | 1,220           | 2,829         |
| <b>COVID-19 Deaths (as of 9/12/21)</b>                          | 662K          | 897     | 89                  | 17              | 71            |

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2018; National Institute on Minority Health & Health Disparities HDPulse; Death Rate Report for Maine by County 2014 – 2018; National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion; Division of Population Health Places Database, 2018; The State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup, Tobacco Prevention & Control Dashboard, 2015 – 2017

<sup>3</sup> NIH, HDPulse. Death Rates Table.

## Qualitative Research Findings

|                              | Number of Participants |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Focus Group Participants     | 26                     |
| Stakeholders Interviewed     | 13                     |
| Community Survey Respondents | 664                    |

### Key Stakeholder Interview Quotes

A total of 13 stakeholders were interviewed from the CCI service area. A selection of quotes that provide some insight into the strengths, needs, and challenges and barriers include the following:

- “There’s abundant natural resources. There’s diversity, especially in the LA area.”
- “Neighborhood leaders are looking at mixed housing, so gentrification doesn’t force people out.”
- “Generational poverty is huge.”
- “It can be really challenging to find any kind of job. It’s harder if you are a New Mainer.”
- “If you can help with housing, the other needs are easily met.”
- “The housing stock is old lead. In 2018, Lewiston abated 500 units from lead to lead safe.”
- “There’s a gap for kids who qualify for Head Start and those who don’t. There’s a long wait list for many [childcare] providers.”
- “We have a lack of high quality slots in childcare for middle income folks on the edge [of eligibility]. It’s also a job force issues. One childcare [facility] is closing because they can’t get employees.”
- “Awareness is definitely an issue. People don’t know there’s help out there and they are hard to navigate.”
- “No, people don’t know about the services. We have so many services, but they all work solo. None are working together. There seems to be a competition for funding.”
- “Nutritious food is a big problem.”
- “Food became more accessible due to the pandemic. Many came together around food, especially dried grains and foods with short-shelf live.”
- “I think people can get to see doctors, even in rural areas.”
- “The worst access is mental health services. The infrastructure [for mental health] is worse in Franklin County. Many people go to the ED for mental health issues.”
- “Most people would consider Lewiston a service center. Most would come to Lewiston. The challenge is people choose not to get treated [for substance misuse]. The overdose rate continues to increase with social isolation and lack of job opportunities.”
- “The larger overarching issues is to deliver service to empower people.”
- “COVID-19 exacerbated food issues. People who were hurting are hurting more now.”
- “[If I had a magic wand, I wish] we had upstream early intervention built with children to give them tools they don’t experience within their families.”



## Key Focus Group Quotes

| Comments and Ideas                            |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Top Challenges Mentioned</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare</li> <li>• Housing</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Unique Strength or Challenge Mentioned</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food for feeding families and children is a positive for Lewiston. The Lewiston Public Schools provide meals throughout the summer to kids. There are lots of food pantries and Trinity Jubilee feeds families and homeless 6 days a week.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Housing</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private housing market does not provide solutions that working class families can afford; The pandemic is a rare case that we have the money, but we don't have the infrastructure to distribute the funds. On the positive side – we received a HUD Choice award.</li> <li>• We need to both expand our supply to meeting growing demand (occupancy rates currently 97-99%), as well as replace much of our old, distressed housing with new quality supply. The old supply has lead, not handicap accessible, other design challenges.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Mental Health</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telehealth has improved access and reduced no-shows, but long wait lists.</li> <li>• I don't know, but from the perspective of port-a-john service provider, there was dramatic increase in needles in the last month.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Childcare</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having childcare for employment. CCI is instrumental in ensuring access to childcare however, still hearing from the folks we serve and our employees that finding affordable childcare is a barrier.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Transportation</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is very limited transportation in rural Maine.</li> <li>• Recovery clients use ride shares that can be reimbursed by MaineCare, but it's a huge barrier for people to seek treatment. Just look at bus routes and where the stops are.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Employment</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding often comes with lots of red tape, which makes it difficult for agencies to pay enough to keep staff AND support the programming OR supplies. There are training opportunities, but again at times criteria that needs to be met to join the training is not inclusive to ESL community members.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Basic Needs</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Magic Wand Highlight</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would make sure all parents with young children were supported in becoming the best parents they could be and offered the highest quality childcare available.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Noted Policy Area</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rental assistance is a very clunky system, the requirements for documentation are difficult. It needs to be improved.</li> </ul>  |

## Community Survey Results

Figure 6: Top Needs from Community Survey

| Community Concepts |   |         |
|--------------------|---|---------|
|                    | Need  | Percent |
| 1                  | Developing more livable-wage jobs   | 52.8%   |
| 2                  | Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities                                 | 51.6%   |
| 3                  | Creating technical school, trade school, or other job training options                                | 51.5%   |
| 4                  | Making dental care more affordable  | 50.7%   |
| 5                  | Creating higher quality rental apartments and houses  | 50.4%   |
| 6                  | Increasing the number of affordable apartments  | 50.3%   |
| 7                  | Reducing the amount of opioid misuse  | 50.1%   |
| 8                  | Expanding crisis services for mental health and substance use disorders                               | 49.9%   |
| 9                  | Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)                        | 49.9%   |
| 10                 | Increasing the number of dentists who serve MaineCare patients  | 49.3%   |
| 11                 | Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (heroin, cocaine, etc.)                                      | 49.1%   |
| 12                 | Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers   | 48.4%   |
| 13                 | Increasing the number of substance use disorder providers and services                                | 47.6%   |
| 14                 | Providing job growth opportunities  | 47.6%   |
| 15                 | Improving access to high-speed internet and technology  | 47.0%   |
| 16                 | Increasing the number of affordable houses for sale   | 47.0%   |
| 17                 | Increasing the availability of prepared foods for seniors (Meals on Wheels, etc.)                     | 46.9%   |
| 18                 | Providing more recreational opportunities for youth   | 46.6%   |
| 19                 | Reducing stigma associated with mental health and substance misuse                                    | 46.5%   |
| 20                 | Increasing the number of childcare providers who offer age-appropriate education                      | 46.1%   |
| 21                 | Increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers                                    | 46.0%   |
| 22                 | Making public transportation available in rural communities   | 45.8%   |
| 23                 | Increasing the number of detox facilities   | 45.7%   |
| 24                 | Creating more shelter beds for certain populations (children, women, families, LGBTQ, veterans, etc.) | 44.9%   |
| 25                 | Providing help with utility assistance (heating fuel, electricity, etc.)                              | 44.8%   |
| 26                 | Providing more after-school programs for school-aged children   | 44.5%   |
| 27                 | Reducing the amount of childhood obesity  | 44.2%   |
| 28                 | Providing soft skills education (customer service, showing up on time, etc.)                          | 43.5%   |
| 29                 | Developing rental and mortgage assistance programs  | 43.3%   |
| 30                 | Creating more emergency shelter beds for people who are homeless                                      | 42.9%   |
| 31                 | Increasing programs for major housing repairs (roofs, windows, etc.)                                  | 42.6%   |
| 32                 | Creating more affordable public transportation options  | 42.5%   |
| 33                 | Reducing building costs of new affordable housing units   | 42.3%   |
| 34                 | Reducing the amount of alcohol misuse   | 42.1%   |
| 35                 | Providing more transportation options to childcare services   | 42.1%   |
| 36                 | Reducing the amount of smoking and vaping   | 41.3%   |
| 37                 | Reducing stigma associated with the housing voucher program   | 41.0%   |
| 38                 | Providing help with the cost of vehicle repairs   | 40.6%   |
| 39                 | Expanding food options for people with dietary restrictions or allergies at food banks                | 40.5%   |
| 40                 | Expanding open hours at food banks  | 39.9%   |
| 41                 | Reducing the amount of adult obesity  | 39.8%   |
| 42                 | Reducing MaineCare transportation limitations (i.e., limited to one parent and child)                 | 39.7%   |
| 43                 | Increasing the number of landlords who accept housing vouchers  | 39.2%   |

|           |  |       |
|-----------|--|-------|
| <b>44</b> | Adding better routes and time schedules to current public transportation system  | 38.4% |
| <b>45</b> | Helping more people who are homeless to find their missing identification documents (driver's license, social security number, etc.) | 38.3% |
| <b>46</b> | Providing more senior housing options  | 38.3% |
| <b>47</b> | Providing help with weatherization   | 37.4% |
| <b>48</b> | Providing help with the cost of vehicle insurance and regular maintenance  | 36.7% |
| <b>49</b> | Increasing programs for minor housing repairs (paint, upgrades, etc.)  | 35.8% |

Figure 7: Top 5 Needs by Household Income - CCI

| Need |   |   |  |   |   |  |  |
|------|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
|      | Under \$15,000  | Between \$15,000 and \$29,999   | Between \$30,000 and \$49,999                                  | Between \$50,000 and \$74,999   | Between \$75,000 and \$99,999   | Between \$100,000 and \$150,000  | Over \$150,000   |
| 1    | Making dental care more affordable                                    | Making dental care more affordable                                      | Making dental care more affordable                             | Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (heroin, cocaine, etc.)                  | Developing more livable-wage jobs                                     | Increasing the number of substance use disorder providers and services | Increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers               |
| 2    | Developing rental and mortgage assistance programs                    | Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities   | Increasing the number of affordable apartments                 | Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)    | Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (heroin, cocaine, etc.)      | Creating more emergency shelter beds for people who are homeless       | Developing more livable-wage jobs  |
| 3    | Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (heroin, cocaine, etc.)      | Expanding crisis services for mental health and substance use disorders | Developing more livable-wage jobs                              | Increasing the availability of prepared foods for seniors (Meals on Wheels, etc.) | Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities | Increasing the number of affordable apartments                         | Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)   |
| 4    | Providing help with the cost of vehicle repairs                       | Increasing the number of dentists who serve MaineCare patients          | Increasing the number of dentists who serve MaineCare patients | Expanding crisis services for mental health and substance use disorders           | Improving access to high-speed internet and technology                | Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities  | Increasing the number of childcare providers who offer age-appropriate education |
| 5    | Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities | Increasing the number of affordable apartments                          | Reducing the amount of opioid misuse                           | Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers                           | Reducing the amount of opioid misuse                                  | Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers                | Providing job growth opportunities   |

## Needs Prioritization

|   | Need   | Timeline  |
|---|--|-----------|
| 1 | <b>Childcare</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Care in all three counties based on need with a focus on flexible childcare options and not Head Start programming</li> <li>• Increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers</li> <li>• Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)</li> <li>• Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers</li> </ul> | 2-3 years |
| 2 | <b>Housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fits very well with our Self Help programming and Built by Me program in Lewiston – we have great opportunity to expand this model and lead the way</li> <li>• Increasing the number of affordable housing units</li> </ul>  | 1 years   |
| 3 | <b>Technology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology is another one in terms of partnering in the community to ensure residents have access to and the ability to use technology.</li> <li>• Improving access to high-speed internet and technology</li> </ul>  | 3+ years  |
| 4 | <b>Reduce Stigma</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing the stigma around poverty and asking for help</li> <li>• Help to reduce the stigma around poverty – we are community action, and this is part of our work and advocating for people in poverty</li> </ul>   | 1 years   |
| 5 | <b>Livable Wage Jobs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of livable wage jobs aligns with our work on repointing jobs and updating job descriptions</li> </ul>  | 2-3 years |

## Stakeholder Interview Participants

| Name                       | Organization                         |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Eric Samson                | Androscoggin County Sheriff          |
| Jessie Perkins             | Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce      |
| Donita St. John            | Community Concepts, Inc.             |
| Kobi Perry                 | Head Start                           |
| Catherine Johnson Lavorgna | Hope Association                     |
| Shanna Cox                 | LA Metro Chamber                     |
| Fowsia Musse               | Maine Community Integration          |
| Stephanie Leblanc          | Oxford County Mental Health Services |
| Dennis Lajoie              | Town of Norway                       |
| Sheila Seekins             | Trinity Jubilee (Episcopal Church)   |
| Kevin Lewis                | Community Health Options             |
| Jolene Bedard              | United Way                           |
| Andrea (Andy) Patstone     | Western Maine Health                 |