

Planning Perspective

The best place to start the planning process is to clearly understand the purpose of the agency i.e., why does WCCAO exist?

WCCAO is an outgrowth of the "War on Poverty" movement of the 1960s. Its initial funding came from the Federal Government's Office of Economic Opportunity. Today one of WCCAO's main funding sources continues to be the Federal Government in the form of the Community Services Agency, an outgrowth of the Office of Economic Opportunity. The purpose behind the expenditure of federal monies for WCCAO programs has remained the same since its inception:

"To stimulate a better focusing of all available local, state, private, and federal resources upon the goal of enabling low-income families, and low-income individuals of all ages, in rural and urban areas to obtain the skills, knowledge, and motivations and secure the opportunities, needed for them to become fully self-sufficient." -Title II of the Economic Opportunity Act, 1964.

In addition to the above purpose, the federal government stipulated that Community Action Agencies should obtain the "maximum feasible participation of the poor" in the day to day operation of their programs.

MISSION STATEMENT

WCCAO's current Mission Statement (adopted January, 1979), establishes "the eradication of poverty in Washington County" as the agencies goal and purpose. According to the Mission Statement, this goal is to be accomplished by identifying and eliminating the causes of poverty rather than dealing with its effects. Four specific types of activity are listed as means for obtaining the agencies overall goal and purpose:

1. Advocacy on behalf of low-income persons is seen as a major objective of WCCAO's purpose. Advocacy activities center around initiating or encouraging the development of programs or changes within existing programs that will provide needed services to low-income persons and advocating needed reforms in societal attitudes pertaining to poor persons. In addition, the exercise and protection of individual rights among low-income persons is another activity that comes under heading of advocacy.
2. Providing direct services (health, education, food, clothing, shelter, household goods, and transportation) to poor persons is another way in which WCCAO carries out its purpose.
3. Self-empowerment or working with poor persons to help them identify and solve their own problems is a third way WCCAO attempts to accomplish its goal.
4. Finally, service innovation and coordination is a means for fulfilling WCCAO's purpose. This involves the development of innovative approaches to meeting the needs of poor persons; providing technical assistance to community groups and local governments for projects benefiting poor persons; and coordinating the delivery of services provided by a number of different agencies to maximize their potential for meeting the needs of the poor.

APPENDIX A

RESULTS OF 1979-80 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

WCCAO PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
RANKING OF GENERAL HUMAN
SERVICE NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME
IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

<u>SERVICE CATEGORY</u>	<u>WCCAO PRIORITY</u>
Employment (job training & placement)	<u>1</u>
Education (Head Start, Self-Help)	2
Housing (Weatherization, rental, home owner assistance)	3
Food	4
Health	5

Rationale:

1. According to an analysis of available secondary data there appears to be a greater need for Employment, Education, and Housing Services than for Food and Health Services.

SUMMARY OF SERVICE PRIORITY ANALYSIS

<u>SERVICE CATEGORY</u>	<u>LOW-INCOME POP. IN NEED</u>	<u>KNOWN SERVED</u>	<u>% SERVED</u>	<u>NUMBER OF OTHER AGENCIES SERVING NEED</u>
Employment	7,700 ¹	2,554 ²	33%	5 ³
Education	550 ⁴	207 ⁵	37%	2 ⁶
Housing	6,550 ⁷	1,661 ⁸	25%	3 ⁹
Food	14,000 ¹⁰	6,495 ¹¹	46%	7 ¹²
Health	6,371 ¹³	3,098 ¹⁴	48%	16 ¹⁵

1. Conservative estimate of the number of low-income persons in the age category 20-59.
2. Number of low-income persons in above age range served by State Employment Office, CETA, and Oregon Human Development Corporation last year.
3. Washington County Civil Services, CETA Consortium, Oregon Human Development Corporation, State Employment Office, Vocational Rehabilitation.

4. Estimate of the number of 4 & 5 year old ADC children in the County.
5. Number of four and five year old poor children served by WCCAO Head Start, A Child's Place, and West Tuality Day Care.
6. A Child's Place and West Tuality Day Care.
7. Number of low-income households in need of assistance according to METRO.
8. Number of low-income households receiving assistance.
9. Washington County Housing Authority, Office of Community Development, City of Beaverton.
10. Conservative estimate of the number of low-income persons in the County.
11. Average number of persons receiving food stamps.
12. Adult & Family Services, Hillsboro Senior Center, Salvation Army, Hillsboro FISH, Elsie J. Sthur Senior Center, Forest Grove FISH, Tigard FISH.
13. Number of persons in need of health services according to the State Community Services Program.
14. Number of low-income persons receiving public assistance and therefore able to receive health services.
15. County VD Clinic, Adult & Family Services, Children Service Division, Hillsboro Senior Center, Metropolitan Family Services, Salvation Army, Developmental Disability Program, County Dental for Children, County Health Department, Elsie J. Sthur Senior Center, Lutheran Family Services, Tigard Senior Center, Tigard Community Youth Services, Tualatin Valley Mental Health Center, Virginia Garcia Clinic.

Rationale Continued:

2. WCCAO surveys of clients and staff indicate there is a greater need for education, employment and housing related services than for food and health services.

<u>WCCAO GENERAL CLIENT SURVEY (1979) SERVICE PRIORITY</u>	<u>WCCAO (1979) SURVEY OF SPANISH SPEAKING COMMUNITY SERVICE PRIORITIES</u>	<u>WCCAO STAFF PRIORITIES INFORMATION</u>
1. Financial assistance (for housing, food and clothing)	1. Employment (help finding a job training program)	1. Education
2. Employment (help finding a job training program)	2. Education (English as a second language)	2. Employment
3. Housing (public rental housing, private rental housing.	3. Medical Aid (adequate medical care)	3. Basic Material Needs
4. Medical (dental & general physical)	4. Housing (public rent housing for families)	A. Housing (including Weatherization)
5. Transportation	5. Transportation	B. Food
6. Education (Adult GED, Legal Rights)	6. Financial Assistance (Medical Costs)	C. Emergency Services
7. Legal Services	7. Legal Services	D. Welfare Assistance
8. Recreation	8. Recreation	4. Health

3. The WCCAO Board of Directors has established the eradication of poverty in Washington County as its mission. Employment and Education Services are more directed at the eradication of poverty than food and health services.

Future Plans to Improve this Analysis

1. Establish a more accurate count of low-income populations.
2. Establish a more accurate count of "known served" by agency, particularly in the Health and Food areas.
3. Establish a list of criteria to be used in measuring the effectiveness of other agencies.
4. Measure the effectiveness of other agencies.