Sieda Community Action Community Assessment Report

Executive Summary – May 2022

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the results of Sieda Community Action's most current needs assessments and satisfaction surveys which were collected from our clients and community partners within our service area. This information, in conjunction with recent community demographics and poverty data as reported by the U.S. Census, will help the agency gain a better understanding of the individual, family, and community needs that our area is facing. With the full implementation of these statistics, the information gleaned will assist Sieda's Leadership and Board of Directors in their ongoing program development and assessment; with decision-making about the use of CSBG funding and other agency resources; and with the strategic planning for the agency.

Sieda Community Action's seven county core service area is in south central and southeast Iowa: Appanoose, Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Van Buren, and Wapello. Sieda also provides Behavioral Health and Treatment Services in Lucas, Monroe, and Wayne Counties; and Parents As Teachers services in Iowa County.

Approach:

Sieda gathered information from our clients and community stakeholders through:

- Client Needs Assessment and Satisfaction Survey – January 2020;
- Sieda CSBG Supplemental Needs Assessment - April 2020;
- Sieda's online feedback forms;
- Office-based feedback forms;
- and the current U.S. Census data.

The Client Needs Assessment helps the agency identify significant needs and possible causes of poverty within our service area. The Satisfaction Surveys and feedback forms help pinpoint both the strengths and weaknesses of the agency.

The Client Needs Assessment and Satisfaction Survey from January 2020 were made available to agency clients through hard copies of the survey beginning in the summer of 2019 and continuing through January 2020. These were entered into Survey Monkey by line staff.

Because of the urgent and widespread needs affecting all sectors of the community during the Covid 19 pandemic, the CSBG Supplemental Needs Assessment was intended to provide some initial information to describe the scope of this crisis on our community and to support the many different responses that will be required to address emerging, evolving needs

Key Findings from Client Needs Assessment –

Conditions of Poverty

689 clients responded to the survey. The highest needs in each of 11 categories are as follows:

Employment Needs – 115 responses	Education Assistance Needs – 109 responses
Finding a job or better job 76.52%	Obtaining a 2 or 4 year degree 54.03%
Knowing what jobs are available 43.48%	Obtaining a HS diploma or GED/HISET/HSED 28.44%
Getting skills training for the job I want 32.17%	Obtaining other education goals 27.52%

Financial Assistance – 84 responses	Legal Assistance – 48 responses
Budgeting and Managing Money 54.76%	Assistance with divorce, child support, child custody 39.58%
Solving Problems with utility companies 39.2%	Assistance with bankruptcy 18.75%
Solving problems with credit card or loan companies 33.33%	

Housing Needs – 174 responses	Nutrition Needs – 102 responses
Making my home more energy efficient 66.67%	Having enough food at home 62.75%
Making necessary home or property repairs 62.07%	Getting food from food pantries, meal sites, or food shelves 56.86%
Finding safe, affordable housing that fits household needs 16.67%	Learning how to stretch my food dollars 33.33%

Child Care Needs – 21 responses	Parenting / Family Support Needs –
Finding affordable child care 71.43%	Learning how to help children cope with stress, depression, emotional issues 76.47%
Finding quality child care 47.62%	Learning how to set goals and plan for my household 58.82%
Finding child care in a convenient location 47.62%	Learning how to communicate and set boundaries for teens in my household 47.06%

Health Needs – 90 responses	Basic Needs – 235 responses
Obtain affordable health / dental insurance 78.89%	Get clothing or shoes 47.23%
Dealing with stress, depression, or anxiety 37.78%	Get basic furniture, appliances, or housewares 46.81%
Find doctor / dentist who accepts Medicaid 28.89%	Get personal care items such as soap, diapers, toilet paper, etc. 43.83%

Transportation Needs – 145 responses
Get a dependable vehicle 44.83%
Repair household vehicle 43.45%
Get to and from appointments / errands 26.90%

Top Current Unmet Needs by number of responses
Making my home more energy efficient - 116 / home repair - 108
Basic needs: clothing - 111 ; Furniture, appliances, housewares - 110; Personal care items - 103
Finding a better job - 88
Obtaining health / dental insurance - 71
Having enough food at home – 64; Getting food from other local resources – 60

Client Needs – Causes of Poverty

Looking at the responses given, it appears that a major reason for clients' needs is their inability to find a job that will provide a living wage that will support their family and meet their basic needs. This inability may be a result of lack of education and /or job training, a lack of necessary job skills, or a lack of knowledge of available jobs. Other issues that may impact this problem is a shortage of available, affordable quality child care and lack of dependable transportation – many of our counties are very rural with few available, affordable options for public transportation, which becomes a great obstacle if the family cannot afford to buy a dependable vehicle or can't afford to repair an existing one. As clients struggle to make ends meet with low-paying - often minimum wage - jobs, their obstacles become almost insurmountable. Food insecurity grows; families are unable to obtain and/or keep affordable, quality, safe, energy efficient housing; unpaid utility bills, rent, credit card balances, etc. accumulate and sometimes become overwhelming; affordable healthcare is often hard to find and/or access which greatly impacts the general health and well-being of the family – and quite possibly their ability to secure and keep a job. For many of our families, this becomes a Catch-22, as they become lost in a never-ending circle of frustration and debt. For this reason, Sieda believes in a holistic approach – or a bundling of services - to provide, and refer to, multiple services for our clients rather than focusing on just one need.

Key Findings from the CSBG Supplemental Needs Assessment

107 responses for all income levels / 47 respondents at 200% poverty and below

In April 2020, Sieda Community Action opened a community needs survey for residents of the counties we serve. The link for the online survey was distributed through the organization's Facebook page, web site, and direct email. Two sets of responses are included in this assessment; one set of data includes all respondents with a second set limited only to respondents reporting income levels at 200% of poverty or below.

Stress:

Survey respondents reported mid-level stress levels with slightly higher levels in low-income respondents.

Finances and parent/homeschooling were the highest stressors for both groups.

All respondents:

	LOW	(NO LABEL)	MEDIUM	(NO LABEL)	HIGH	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Regarding finances	23.58% 25	15.09% 16	36.79% 39	15.09% 16	9.43% 10	106	2.72
Regarding employment	52.38% 55	12.38% 13	22.86% 24	3.81% 4	8.57% 9	105	2.04
Regarding parenting / homeschooling	30.48% 32	20.00% 21	31.43% 33	6.67% 7	11.43% 12	105	2.49
Overall Stress level	12.15% 13	13.08% 14	46.73% 50	16.82% 18	11.21% 12	107	3.02

Respondents at 200% poverty and below:

	LOW	(NO LABEL)	MEDIUM	(NO LABEL)	HIGH	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Regarding finances	21.28% 10	4.26% 2	36.17% 17	21.28% 10	17.02% 8	47	3.09
Regarding employment	41.30% 19	8.70% 4	26.09% 12	4.35% 2	19.57% 9	46	2.52
Regarding parenting / homeschooling	23.40% 11	12.77% 6	42.55% 20	6.38% 3	14.89% 7	47	2.77
Overall Stress level	4.26% 2	8.51% 4	51.06% 24	21.28% 10	14.89% 7	47	3.34

Challenges:

When including all survey respondents, the biggest challenges being faced and expected to be faced were around mental health and helping their children or loved ones cope. When looking specifically at low-income respondents; mental health and families were still a high priority, but the challenge of covering the expenses of basic needs increased dramatically.

All respondents:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Getting food	10.28%	11
Transportation to get food	1.87%	2
Transportation overall	4.67%	5
Getting hygiene or personal care items	7.48%	8
Getting basic household items (bed, furniture, appliances, housewares, etc)	6.54%	7
Employment	10.28%	11
Mental Health	19.63%	21
Coping with high stress levels in a healthy way	25.23%	27
Helping my children or loved one cope with high stress levels in a healthy way	28.97%	31

Substance abuse / misuse	1.87%	2
Medical Needs	6.54%	7
Medication Assistance	0.00%	0
Ability to pay rent/mortgage	7.48%	8
Ability to pay my electric bill	8.41%	9
Ability to pay my gas bill	5.61%	6
Ability to pay my water bill	7.48%	8
Childcare	3.74%	4
Budgeting	5.61%	6
Debt	13.08%	14
Educational concern for my children while they are not in school	26.17%	28
My household is comfortable right now with no great needs	41.12%	44
Other (please specify)	3.74%	4
Total Respondents: 107		

In the next 30 to 60 days what do you anticipate your greatest need to be?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The same as listed above.	90.65%	97
Other (please specify)	9.35%	10
TOTAL		107

In the next 6 months to a year what do you anticipate will be the greatest challenges you household faces? (check all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Getting food	7.48%	8
Transportation to get food	0.00%	0
Transportation overall	2.80%	3
Getting hygiene or personal care items	2.80%	3
Getting basic household items (bed, furniture, appliances, housewares, etc)	3.74%	4
Employment	18.69%	20
Mental Health	20.56%	22

Coping with high stress levels in a healthy way	27.10%	29
Helping my children or loved one cope with high stress levels in a healthy way	22.43%	24
Substance abuse / misuse	0.93%	1
Medical Needs	9.35%	10
Medication Assistance	1.87%	2
Ability to pay rent/mortgage	11.21%	12
Ability to pay my electric bill	14.02%	15
Ability to pay my gas bill	9.35%	10
Ability to pay my water bill	8.41%	9
Childcare	4.67%	5
Budgeting	9.35%	10
Debt	15.89%	17
Educational concern for my children while they are not in school	18.69%	20
My household is comfortable right now with no great needs	33.64%	36
Other (please specify)	5.61%	6
Total Respondents: 107		

Respondents at 200% poverty and below:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Getting food	14.89%	7
Transportation to get food	4.26%	2
Transportation overall	10.64%	5
Getting hygiene or personal care items	10.64%	5
Getting basic household items (bed, furniture, appliances, housewares, etc)	14.89%	7
Employment	21.28%	10
Mental Health	19.15%	9
Coping with high stress levels in a healthy way	27.66%	13
Helping my children or loved one cope with high stress levels in a healthy way	31.91%	15
Substance abuse / misuse	0.00%	0
Medical Needs	10.64%	5
Medication Assistance	0.00%	0
Ability to pay rent/mortgage	17.02%	8
Educational concern for my children while they are not in school	29.79%	14
My household is comfortable right now with no great needs	23.40%	11
Other (please specify)	2.13%	1
Total Respondents: 47		

In the next 30 to 60 days what do you anticipate your greatest need to be?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The same as listed above.	91.49%	43
Other (please specify)	8.51%	4
TOTAL		47

In the next 6 months to a year what do you anticipate will be the greatest challenges you household faces? (check all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Getting food	8.51%	4
Transportation to get food	0.00%	0
Transportation overall	6.38%	3
Getting hygiene or personal care items	0.00%	0
Getting basic household items (bed, furniture, appliances, housewares, etc)	4.26%	2
Employment	27.66%	13
Mental Health	14.89%	7
Coping with high stress levels in a healthy way	27.66%	13
Helping my children or loved one cope with high stress levels in a healthy way	23.40%	11
Substance abuse / misuse	0.00%	0
Medical Needs	12.77%	6
Medication Assistance	0.00%	0
Ability to pay rent/mortgage	23.40%	11
Ability to pay my electric bill	27.66%	13
Ability to pay my gas bill	19.15%	9
Ability to pay my water bill	17.02%	8
Childcare	6.38%	3
Budgeting	8.51%	4
Debt	23.40%	11
Educational concern for my children while they are not in school	17.02%	8
My household is comfortable right now with no great needs	29.79%	14
Other (please specify)	4.26%	2
Total Respondents: 47		

How knowledgeable do you feel of area resources to meet your household needs?

All respondents:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I do not need help with area resources to meet my household's needs	45.79%	49
Not at all aware of area resources to help my household. For some help please take a look online or call one of our locations for more information.	3.74%	4
Aware of some resources for some needs my household is facing. For some help please take a look online or call one of our locations for more information.	24.30%	26
Have a high level of knowledge of area resources to help meet my household's needs	26.17%	28
TOTAL		107

Respondents at 200% poverty and below:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I do not need help with area resources to meet my household's needs	29.79%	14
Not at all aware of area resources to help my household. For some help please take a look online or call one of our locations for more information.	4.26%	2
Aware of some resources for some needs my household is facing. For some help please take a look online or call one of our locations for more information.	40.43%	19
Have a high level of knowledge of area resources to help meet my household's needs	25.53%	12
TOTAL		47

Income:

As might be expected. Low-income households reported that their income had changed as a result of the Pandemic.

All Respondents:

Has your household income reduced due to COVID-19?

Answered: 106 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	32.08%	34
No	67.92%	72
TOTAL		106

Is your current household monthly income (the past 30 days or projected next 30 days) at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, my current (past 30 days) monthly income is at or below this level	43.93%	47
No, my current monthly income is above this level	56.07%	60
TOTAL		107

Respondents at 200% poverty and below:

Has your household income reduced due to COVID-19?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	53.19%	25
No	46.81%	22
TOTAL		47

Is your current household monthly income (the past 30 days or projected next 30 days) at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, my current (past 30 days) monthly income is at or below this level	100.00%	47
No, my current monthly income is above this level	0.00%	0
TOTAL		47

Analysis:

The impact of the pandemic and resulting economic changes have been felt across Sieda's service area. Unemployment rates have increased, and there is very real concern among many households that they may not be able to meet their basic needs in the coming months. If the number of cases of COVID-19 continue to impact the area, we could see an even greater impact on employment, household income, and the need for Sieda services.

Sieda Community Action Satisfaction Surveys

Sieda Community Action uses a couple of types of satisfaction surveys – the Client Satisfaction Survey included with the Client Needs Assessment and Client Feedback Forms which are provided to clients in all of our centers. The information collected from these surveys gives Sieda insight on the opinions and feelings of our clients and community partners regarding their experiences with, and perceptions of, our agency, and helps to show us ways that we can improve our client service experience.

Client Satisfaction Survey

♦ 96% indicated that they had a positive experience when they received services from Sieda.

♦ 96% stated they were helped in a timely manner.

♦ 97% thought that Sieda staff were friendly and helpful.

♦ 85% said that they were informed about other services that could help them with their needs.

Agency Feedback Forms

When asked how well our staff provided services to the clients at their current visit, 94% of the respondents rated staff performance as good to excellent.

Suggested Improvements from Clients

- Provide more financial resources for bills other than heating and electric, i.e. rent, water, phone, mortgage.
- Provide better public awareness of Sieda as a whole, and the programs and services which you provide.
- Provide more information on other local resources which might be able to help with clients' needs.
- Have more online presence or make people more aware of your online presence.
- Provide more non-traditional office hours so it is more convenient for people who work the same hours that Sieda is open.
- Hire more staff in your centers so the wait time is less.
- Create a system that requires less paperwork. If there is paperwork, make sure it is easy to read (not small print) and understand.
- Keep the offices in the smaller counties open more than one or two days per week.

Data Specific to Our Counties Poverty

Sieda Community Action collects and reviews U.S. Census data for our core seven-county service area from American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year Estimate. The Census data is for 2019 and we use several data tables, such as DP05, S1701, and B17010. We can compare yearly whether the numbers have increased or decreased since 2010.

For example, the increase or decrease of the population totals and the changes in poverty for our counties, along with the percentage in poverty. We do this for a variety of categories.

Table: 4-1

Total Population, All Ages	2010			2019			2010 to 2019 Change		
	Total Population	Below 100% Poverty Line	% Below Poverty Line	Total Population	Below 100% Poverty Line	% Below Poverty Line	Total Population Change	Below 100% Poverty Line Change	% of Below Poverty Line Change
Iowa	2,916,252	338,263	11.6%	3,040,184	348,122	11.5%	+123,932	+9,859	-0.1%
Appanoose	12,908	2,052	15.9%	12,294	2,170	17.7%	-614	+118	+1.8%
Davis	8,598	814	9.5%	8,783	868	9.9%	+185	+54	+.4%
Jefferson	15,694	2,247	14.3%	17,267	2,087	12.1%	+1,573	-160	-2.2%
Keokuk	10,342	1,063	10.3%	10,042	995	9.9%	-300	-68	-0.4%
Mahaska	21,514	3,067	14.3%	21,567	2,949	13.7%	+53	-118	-0.6%
Van Buren	7,392	1,236	16.7%	7,066	906	12.8%	-326	-330	-3.9%
Wapello	34,892	5,661	16.2%	34,348	5,132	14.9%	-544	-529	-1.3%
All Counties Total	111,340	16,140	14.5%	111,367	15,107	13.6%	+27	-1,033	-0.9%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey - **S1701** Estimates are based on 5 year estimates from 2010 & 2019

One of our counties on Iowa's southern edge has seen the most drastic increase of people below the poverty line, Appanoose (+1.8%). Even with Appanoose losing over 600 people. Davis County was the only other county that grew in poverty numbers (+0.4%). With further study, we know that both counties have lost industrial plants since 2010. In contrast, Jefferson County gained over 1,500 people and had dropped in poverty numbers (-2.2%). Their university has grown as well as businesses, which could explain these changes. Although, Van Buren County shows us a different story. Van Buren had the greatest percentage drop in our counties of those in poverty (-3.9%). However, the population of those that left the county is similar to the amount of those in poverty that left the county. They could have moved on due to circumstances such as Van buren being a Food Desert (Table 4-16 & 4-17)? By staying on top of changes we can better understand where needs can be met.

The data we collect extends over several categories and is on our website for our programs, board, directors, or anyone to use, under Resources (https://www.sieda.org/by-the-numbers/). We present this data yearly to the board and give a condensed presentation to our staff and community groups. The census data is extensive, and only a small amount has been added to this report. The category data that is linked to our website is provided below.

2010 to 2019 County Poverty Statistics for Sieda's Area

- Region Population and Percent of Sieda's Region Population
- Poverty Levels Data (50, 100, 125, 150, 185, 200) Individuals and Percentages
- Age Groups Data (Individuals and Percentages)
- Below Poverty Line Age Groups Data (Ind. & Per.)
- Race/Ethnicity Alone or In Combination (Ind. & Per.)
- Below Poverty Race/Ethnicity Alone or In Combination (Ind. & Per.)
- Family Type of Households (Including Mother & Father Only) (Totals & Per.)
- Below Poverty Family Type of Households (Including Mother & Father Only) (Totals & Per.)
- Educational Attainment Levels (Ind. & Per.)
- Below Poverty Educational Attainment Levels (Ind. & Per.)
- Male and Female Employment & Unemployment Data (Ind. & Per.)
- Below Poverty Male and Female Employment & Unemployment Data (Ind. & Per.)
- School District Percent of Students Qualifying for Free/Reduced Lunch

In addition, we collect our Sieda Client Demographics in the NIFCAP program. This includes all of our services, except for CACFP and part of BHTS. The latest is Sieda's 2019 Client Demographics. The Data for Sieda and each county is linked on our webpage under Resources / By the Numbers (https://www.sieda.org/by-the-numbers/).

Sieda's 2019 Client Demographics

- **Sieda Totals**
- Appanoose County Sieda 2019 Client Demographics
- Davis County Sieda 2019 Client Demographics
- Jefferson County Sieda 2019 Client Demographics
- Keokuk County Sieda 2019 Client Demographics
- Mahaska County Sieda 2019 Client Demographics
- Van Buren County Sieda 2019 Client Demographics
- Wapello County Sieda 2019 Client Demographics

Table 4-2 indicates the percentage of the individuals by county served by Sieda. We see that 20.5% of our clients live in Wapello County, with the second-highest being Appanoose County (15.2%). Yet from **Table 4-1**, in 2019 Mahaska has a higher population below the 100% poverty line (21,567) than Appanoose County (12,294). However, Appanoose has a greater percentage (17.7%) of the county's people living below the poverty line of all our counties.

Appanoose	15.2%
Davis	9.1%
Jefferson	10.9%
Keokuk	9.7%
Mahaska	10.9%
Van Buren	12.5%
Wapello	20.5%

Table: 4-2

Table: 4-3

% Labor Force Below Poverty Level Employed & Unemployed Ages 16+			2010	2019	2010 to 2019 Change
Total Iowa	Employed	% of LF[a]	6.7%	6.5%	-0.2%
		Male	34.3%	34.9%	+0.6%
		Female	45.4%	49.1%	+3.7%
	Unemployed	% of LF[b]	30.9%	32.7%	+1.8%
		Male	10.0%	7.6%	-2.4%
		Female	10.2%	8.4%	-1.8%
	Total Below Poverty [c]		7.9%	7.4%	-0.5%
Appanoose	Employed	% of LF[a]	8.4%	7.0%	-1.4%
		Male	32.4%	35.8%	+3.3%
		Female	33.2%	31.8%	-1.5%
	Unemployed	% of LF[b]	36.6%	48.6%	+12.0%
		Male	24.3%	23.9%	-0.4%
		Female	10.0%	8.6%	-1.4%
	Total Below Poverty		11.4%	9.7%	-1.7%
Davis	Employed	% of LF[a]	5.6%	4.8%	-0.8%
		Male	37.3%	34.6%	-2.7%
		Female	44.4%	51.1%	+6.7%
	Unemployed	% of LF[b]	16.7%	26.0%	+9.2%
		Male	6.0%	4.2%	-1.8%
		Female	12.3%	10.1%	-2.2%
	Total Below Poverty		6.4%	5.5%	-0.9%
Jefferson	Employed	% of LF[a]	9.8%	6.3%	-3.5%
		Male	35.2%	19.8%	-15.4%
		Female	57.6%	51.1%	-6.5%
	Unemployed	% of LF[b]	13.5%	37.9%	+24.4%
		Male	3.1%	20.1%	+17.%
		Female	4.1%	9.0%	+4.9%
	Total Below Poverty		10.0%	8.4%	-1.7%
Keokuk	Employed	% of LF[a]	5.9%	3.8%	-2.1%
		Male	36.4%	22.6%	-13.8%
		Female	45.7%	38.9%	-6.9%
	Unemployed	% of LF[b]	28.3%	48.1%	+19.9%
		Male	9.6%	16.3%	+6.7%
		Female	8.3%	22.3%	+14.0%
	Total Below Poverty		6.9%	5.9%	-1.0%
Mahaska	Employed	% of LF[a]	8.8%	10.1%	+1.4%
		Male	40.4%	43.4%	+3.0%
		Female	36.5%	46.7%	+10.3%
	Unemployed	% of LF[b]	41.9%	28.6%	-13.3%
		Male	6.8%	5.5%	-1.3%
		Female	16.3%	4.4%	-11.9%
	Total Below Poverty		10.7%	10.8%	+0.1%
Van Buren	Employed	% of LF[a]	7.4%	6.2%	-1.2%
		Male	42.6%	50.6%	+8.0%
		Female	37.4%	25.7%	-11.7%
	Unemployed	% of LF[b]	27.1%	35.1%	+8.0%
		Male	9.4%	16.1%	+6.7%
		Female	10.6%	7.6%	-3.0%
	Total Below Poverty		8.7%	7.7%	-1.0%
Wapello	Employed	% of LF[a]	7.0%	7.6%	+0.6%
		Male	28.7%	28.7%	0%
		Female	36.5%	49.0%	+12.6%
	Unemployed	% of LF[b]	43.5%	34.5%	-9.0%
		Male	19.3%	14.0%	-5.3%
		Female	15.5%	8.2%	-7.3%
	Total Below Poverty		9.9%	9.2%	-0.8%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey - **S1701** 5-Year Est.
Note: Percents from number of "Employed" or "Unemployed" "Male" or "Female" divided by number of "Total Labor Force 16+" % of LF represents percentage of all labor force in this category.
Note: This is not how the S1701 does the percentage. It takes Total of Unemployed Male to same catergory but below poverty.

For **gender-specific data**, we review two data categories from ACS 5-year Estimate, from 2010 to 2019, and the changes in-between.

The first source is **S1701** (Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, Employment Status, Civilian labor force 16 years and older). We review the data by females and males either employed or unemployed, both in and out of poverty. **Table 4-3** provides a percentage of the individuals in the workforce that are below the poverty line. Seeing gender struggles in employment for programs we offer; FaDSS, PAT, MIECHV, CSBG, and Head Start.

Our area is very similar to the State of Iowa. The largest labor force group struggling with poverty is employed females at 49.1%. In other words, half of the people in poverty older than 16 are females that are working. Very concerning since all but two of our Counties mirrored this percentage in 2019. Similar counties ranged from 38.9% (Keokuk) to 51.1% (Davis and Jefferson). Van Buren and Appanoose show in their counties that employed males (50.6%, 35.8%) are higher. However, Keokuk and Jefferson Counties' numbers dropped since 2010, and the others rose. Some of the counties employed females in poverty were higher than unemployed males and females combined. Appanoose (48.6%) and Keokuk (48.1%) are the only counties that which both males and females were unemployed together had a higher percentage.

This data reflects 76.5% of the clients that commented, "Finding a job or a better job." And what the community assessment backed up. With stakeholders feeling that there were insufficient full-time (77.29%) or part-time (75.86%) jobs that pay at least $15/hr. As well as people being under-employment (65.24%).

The second source of gender data we use is from **B17010** (Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families by Family Type...). As shown in **Table 4-4**. Many of our programs such as FaDSS, Head Start, MIECHV, and PAT review gender struggles in family types and the increase or decrease in family types, like Single fathers or mothers or Married homes.

Table: 4-4

	2019 Households by Family Type with income in that year below 100% poverty		HH	%
Total Iowa	Households in Iowa below 100% poverty		58,018	7.8%
	Married Couples	With Children Under 18	10,813	18.6%
		With Children Under 5 Only	1,617	2.8%
		With No Children Under 18	9,591	16.5%
	Single Father, no wife	With Children Under 18	5,079	8.8%
		With Children Under 5 Only	1,168	2%
		With No Children Under 18	1,407	2.4%
	Single Mother, no husband	With Children Under 18	28,054	48.4%
		With Children Under 5 Only	6,942	12%
		With No Children Under 18	3,074	5.3%
Appanoose	Households in App. below 100% poverty		362	12.8%
	Married Couples	With Children Under 18	113	31.2%
		With Children Under 5 Only	5	1.4%
		With No Children Under 18	74	20.4%
	Single Father, no wife	With Children Under 18	9	2.5%
		With Children Under 5 Only	0	0%
		With No Children Under 18	50	13.8%
	Single Mother, no husband	With Children Under 18	114	31.5%
		With Children Under 5 Only	3	0.8%
		With No Children Under 18	2	0.6%
Davis	Households in Davis below 100% poverty		167	7.9%
	Married Couples	With Children Under 18	57	34.1%
		With Children Under 5 Only	3	1.8%
		With No Children Under 18	21	12.6%
	Single Father, no wife	With Children Under 18	0	0%
		With Children Under 5 Only	0	0%
		With No Children Under 18	7	4.2%
	Single Mother, no husband	With Children Under 18	82	49.1%
		With Children Under 5 Only	17	10.2%
		With No Children Under 18	0	0%

	2019 Households by Family Type with income in that year below 100% poverty		HH	%
Jefferson	Households in Jeff. below 100% poverty		276	7.3%
	Married Couples	With Children Under 18	37	13.4%
		With Children Under 5 Only	4	1.4%
		With No Children Under 18	123	44.6%
	Single Father, no wife	With Children Under 18	30	10.9%
		With Children Under 5 Only	0	0%
		With No Children Under 18	0	0%
	Single Mother, no husband	With Children Under 18	79	28.6%
		With Children Under 5 Only	62	22.5%
		With No Children Under 18	7	2.5%
Keokuk	Households in Keokuk below 100%		170	6.5%
	Married Couples	With Children Under 18	57	33.5%
		With Children Under 5 Only	7	4.1%
		With No Children Under 18	30	17.6%
	Single Father, no wife	With Children Under 18	0	0%
		With Children Under 5 Only	0	0%
		With No Children Under 18	11	6.5%
	Single Mother, no husband	With Children Under 18	70	41.2%
		With Children Under 5 Only	4	2.4%
		With No Children Under 18	2	1.2%
Mahaska	Households in Mah. below 100% poverty		561	10.4%
	Married Couples	With Children Under 18	94	16.8%
		With Children Under 5 Only	11	2%
		With No Children Under 18	61	10.9%
	Single Father, no wife	With Children Under 18	35	6.2%
		With Children Under 5 Only	10	1.8%
		With No Children Under 18	0	0%
	Single Mother, no husband	With Children Under 18	327	58.3%
		With Children Under 5 Only	105	18.7%
		With No Children Under 18	44	7.8%

	2019 Households by Family Type with income in that year below 100% poverty		HH	%
Van Buren	Households in V.B. below 100% poverty		151	8.5%
	Married Couples	With Children Under 18	63	41.7%
		With Children Under 5 Only	8	5.3%
		With No Children Under 18	23	15.2%
	Single Father, no wife	With Children Under 18	13	8.6%
		With Children Under 5 Only	0	0%
		With No Children Under 18	5	3.3%
	Single Mother, no husband	With Children Under 18	42	27.8%
		With Children Under 5 Only	4	2.6%
		With No Children Under 18	5	3.3%
Wapello	Households in Wap. below 100% poverty		1,199	14.6%
	Married Couples	With Children Under 18	206	17.2%
		With Children Under 5 Only	80	6.7%
		With No Children Under 18	129	10.8%
	Single Father, no wife	With Children Under 18	186	15.5%
		With Children Under 5 Only	50	4.2%
		With No Children Under 18	47	3.9%
	Single Mother, no husband	With Children Under 18	560	46.7%
		With Children Under 5 Only	124	10.3%
		With No Children Under 18	71	5.9%
7 Counties	Households in 7 Co. below 100% poverty		2,886	10.8%
	Married Couples	With Children Under 18	627	21.7%
		With Children Under 5 Only	118	4.1%
		With No Children Under 18	461	16%
	Single Father, no wife	With Children Under 18	273	9.5%
		With Children Under 5 Only	60	2.1%
		With No Children Under 18	120	4.2%
	Single Mother, no husband	With Children Under 18	1,274	44.1%
		With Children Under 5 Only	319	11.1%
		With No Children Under 18	131	4.5%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey - B17010 5-Year Est. Income in the past 12 months below poverty level

^ Percents come from "All Households by Family Type" numbers divided by "Total Households in..."

Once again, a majority of our counties are similar to Iowa's percentages. The most alarming number for our 7 counties (44.1%) is Single mother households with children under 18 (Single Mother HH w/<18). This group is the greatest percentage for 5 out of 7 counties. Jefferson and Van Buren are the exceptions with their homes in poverty being married couples, with or without children. Mahaska is highest for the total of Single Mother HH w/<18, with 58.3% living below the poverty line. Drastically high compared to Iowa's 48.4%. 5 of the county's numbers have increased for Single Mothers, since 2010. With an increase of 6.5% for the 7 county average. Single Father household numbers are minimal, with some counties growing by over 7.5% and others decreasing since 2010, keeping the change at +1% for our 7 counties.

From our gender data, we are seeing that female employment and being a single mother is a critical concerns in our counties. All the more prevalent is when 45.9% of our community sees a need for more reliable and affordable child cares. Our 2017 client data (**Table**: **4-5**) shows that 15% of the family types we serve are Single Mother homes, with 39% of Sieda's households with children being Single Mother homes. This affects how we work with families and guides us with family programs and extended services.

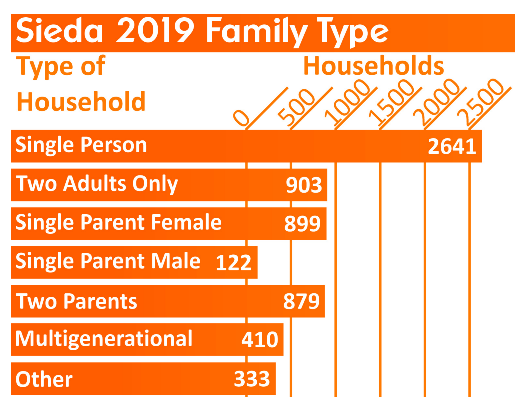


Table: 4-5

For **age-related data**, we refer to **DP05**, **S1701**, and **B17001** to study age groups above and below the poverty line. Sieda collects and reviews all age range data as beneficial for all our programs. However, there are 2 age groups we focused on. The groups are the "under 5" for our child education and family programs and the "over 60" for LIHEAP.

The population of children under 5, had a .3% drop since 2010 in our 7 counties, with an average of 6.2% of the population (**DP05**). Although the State of Iowa has seen the same drop. Reassuring is that in our area, we have seen a drop of -7.3% in children under 5 below the poverty line, as seen in **Table**: **4-6** and **Table 4-7**, we can see percentages lowering. However, 2 of our counties, Davis and Mahaska, have seen increases in this area.

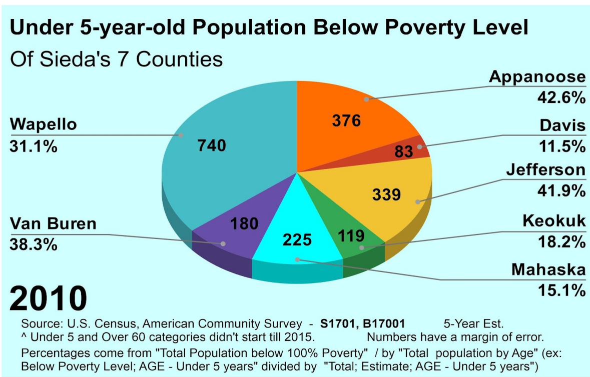


Table: 4-6

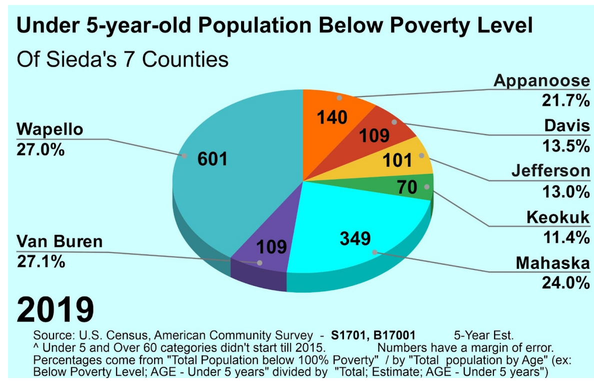
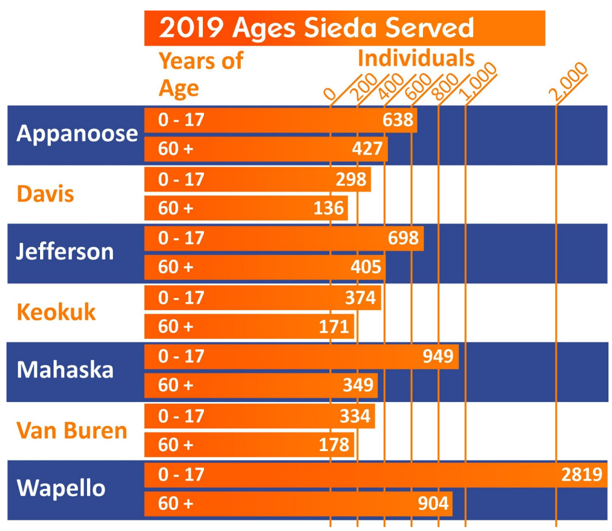


Table: 4-7

Table: 4-8



It is important for Sieda to monitor the age group of 0 to 5-years-olds due to age-specific programs such as MIECHV, PAT, and Head Start. We continue to expand and develop for families with children this age. Nonetheless, Sieda for 2019 served 6,110 children under the age of 18 (**Table 4-8**) and 39.7% were under 5. Of the over 16,400 individuals assisted by Sieda, 37.1% were under the age of 18.

The other age group we serve with age-specific programs and start dates are the 60 and over (60+), which cover 15.6% of our Sieda clients. 27.8% of our area population is over 60, exceeding Iowa's 23.2% (**DP05**). 9% of the individuals below poverty in 2018, were 60+, in our 7 counties. Appanoose has the highest percentage of elderly (31%)(**DP05**). Yet, the 60+ in poverty is higher (12.4%) in Jefferson County (**Table 4-10**). The U.S. Census does not have data for this category until 2015. From 2015 (**Table 4-9)** to 2019 (**Table 4-10**), the amount of 60+ in poverty has gone down in all but 2 counties. The biggest increase is in Jefferson County, with 230 people. Jefferson has drastically increased in the population (**Table 4-1**) since 2010, +1,573. Plus, of their 60+ age group is the fastest-growing, with a growth of +1,663, which is more than our most populated county Wapello (+1,228)(**DP05**).

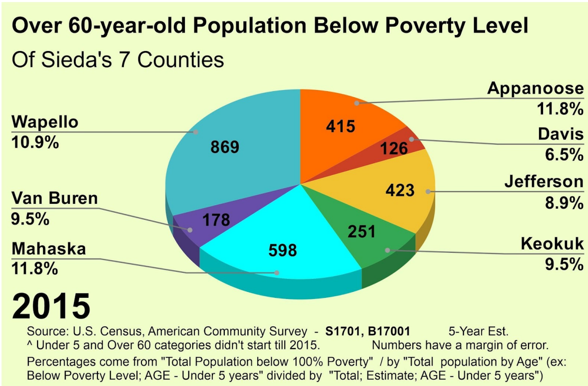


Table: 4-9

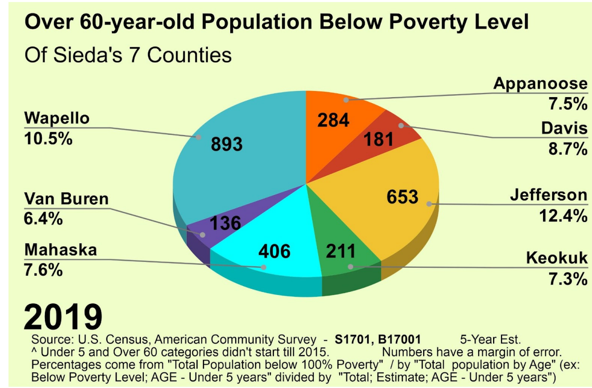


Table: 4-10

For **Race/Ethnicity**, our 7 county area has seen changes since 2010. Reviewing **Table 4-11**, the white population is the largest but has dropped by over 5,000 people. In contrast, 2 groups are growing much more than the others, the Hispanic/Latino (+1,565), and Black or African-American (+1,961). The population growth of our area slightly decreased. With a drop in the white population balancing with the growth of other Race/Ethnicity groups.

Population by Race/Ethnicity		2010	2019	2010 to 2019 Change
Totals for the 7 Counties	Hispanic/Latino*	3,942	5,507	+1,565
	Not Hispanic/Latino	110,611	108,656	-1,955
	White	106,469	101,351	-5,118
	Black or African-American	962	2,923	+1,961
	American Indian & Alaska Native	138	135	-3
	Asian	1,647	1,745	+98
	Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	5	286	+281
	Some Other Race	37	272	+235
	Two or More Races	1,353	1,944	+591
	Total Population	114,553	114,163	-390

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey - **DP05** 5-Year Estimates
º & ~ Estimate!!HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE!!Total population!!Not Hispanic or Latino

Table: 4-11

A further look at each of our counties shows which populations have changed the most. **Table 4-12** is the top 2 Race/Ethnic groups for each county. Jefferson County has the fastest growth rate, for Black or African-Americans (+5.9%). While Wapello's is Hispanic (+2.6%) and Black (+2.4%). However, Hispanic are at the top of 6 of our counties and number 1 in 5 of our counties.

Table: 4-12

Population by Race/Ethnicity		2010	2019	2010 to 2019 Change
Appanoose	Hispanic/Latino*	1.2%	2.0%	+0.8%
	Two or More Races	0.8%	1.5%	+0.7%
Davis	Hispanic/Latino*	0.2%	1.5%	+1.3%
	Two or More Races	0.1%	1.0%	+0.9%
Jefferson	Black or African-American	1.2%	7.1%	+5.9%
	Asian	6.4%	4.4%	-2.0%
Keokuk	Hispanic/Latino*	0.8%	1.7%	+0.9%
	Two or More Races	1.0%	0.9%	-0.1%
Mahaska	Hispanic/Latino*	1.6%	2.2%	+0.6%
	Asian	0.8%	1.5%	+0.7%
Van Buren	Hispanic/Latino*	0.5%	1.6%	+1.1%
	Two or More Races	0.9%	1.1%	+0.2%
Wapello	Hispanic/Latino*	8.2%	10.8%	+2.6%
	Black or African-American	0.9%	3.3%	+2.4%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey - **DP05** 5-Year Estimates
º & ~ Estimate!!HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE!!Total population!!Not Hispanic or Latino

Table: 4-13

Below Poverty Population by Race/Ethnicity*^		2010	2019	2010 to 2019 Change
Totals for the 7 Counties	Hispanic/Latino	1,038	899	-139
	Not Hispanic/Latino	13,904	12,724	-1,180
	White	14,432	13,256	-1,176
	Black or African-American	313	662	+349
	American Indian & Alaska Native	40	9	-31
	Asian	196	247	+51
	Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	0	147	+147
	Some Other Race	361	347	-14
	Two or More Races	798	439	-359
	Total Population	16,140	15,107	-1,033

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey - S1701 5-Year Est. 100% Poverty Level and below
*Due to different sampling methodology, poverty chart's population differ from other population estimates.

When looking at **Table 4-13,** the Race/Ethnicity groups below the poverty line (**S1701**), we see that the fastest-growing group is Black/African-American with +349. The White group has decreased with -1,176 but still has the most in poverty with over 13,000. Hispanics come in as the 2nd largest group with nearly 900 below poverty, and Blacks 3rd with over 600.

Table 4-14 provides the top 2 groups for each county. The numbers represent the number of people of that Race/Ethnic group that are below the poverty line in that county. To explain, 100% of the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders in Mahaska County are below the 100% line. The group 'Some Other Race' is high for counties Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, and Van Buren. Concerning, when the White population averages 12.6% of our total area. Ranging from 17.7% (Appanoose) to as low as 9.5% (Keokuk). In Appanoose, Jefferson, Keokuk, and Van Buren, the Hispanics are in the top 2 while Black/ African-Americans are in the top 2 for Mahaska and Wapello. Reviewing race data to better direct services for any growing ethnic group. For our growing Latino population, we added a Bilingual MIECHV worker, and a staff member to help with Spanish literature and visitors.

Table: 4-14

Percent Below Poverty by Race/Ethnicity*^		2010	2019	2010 to 2019 Change
Appanoose	Hispanic/Latino	44.2%	30.6%	-13.6%
	Two or More Races	44.3%	26.2%	-18.1%
Davis	Some Other Race	0%	100.0%	+100%
	Two or More Races	0%	10.8%	+10.8%
Jefferson	Hispanic/Latino	23.7%	28.3%	+4.6%
	Some Other Race	10.6%	59.6%	+49%
Keokuk	Hispanic/Latino	0%	33.7%	+33.7%
	Some Other Race	0%	62.2%	+62.2%
Mahaska	Black or African-American	82.2%	54.9%	-27.3%
	Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	0%	100%	+100%
Van Buren	Hispanic/Latino	0.0%	58.9%	+58.9%
	Some Other Race	0%	41.7%	+41.7%
Wapello	Black or African-American	35.3%	37.7%	+2.4%
	Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	0%	40.4%	+40.4%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey - S1701 5-Year Est. 100% Poverty Level and below
*Due to different sampling methodology, poverty chart's population differ from other population estimates.
^ Percents come from "Population Below Poverty..." numbers divided by "Total Population by Race..."

Our first source of **Food needs data** is the Iowa Department of Education Iowa Public School K-12 Students Eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch by District. Our School District, with the greatest need for Free/Reduced lunches, is in rural Appanoose County, Moulton-Udell 62.3% of the students (**Table 4-15**). 2nd, at 59.7%, is Tri-County in rural Keokuk and Mahaska. The Cardinal District is 3rd with 59.1% and overlaps the rural area of 4 of our counties. Including these, there are 7 that have more than half of their students that can have free/reduced lunches. In addition, only 6 out of our 19 School Districts have decreased numbers of qualified students since 2010. Pella is our only district that has less than 35% of its students that qualify.

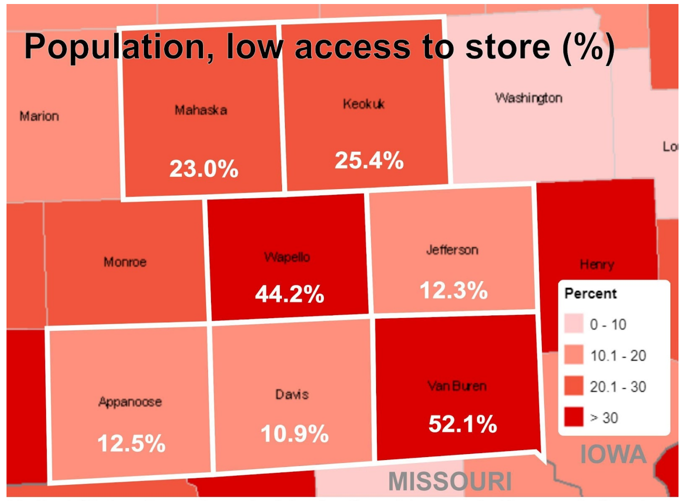
Table: 4-15

Percent of Students Qualifying for Free/Reduced Lunch				
School District County(ies)	**School District**	**2010-11**	**2019-20**	**2010 to 2020 Change**
Appanoose	Centerville	43.4	52.2	+8.8
	Moravia	53.2	50.7	-2.5
	Moulton -Udell	40.6	62.3	+21.7
	Seymour	49.6	47.6	-2.0
Davis	Davis County CSD	42.4	53.0	+10.6
Jefferson	Fairfield CSD	42.7	47.5	+4.8
Jefferson, Keokuk, & Wapello	Pekin	37.7	41.2	+3.5
Keokuk	Keota	26.5	38.9	+12.4
	Sigourney	30.0	34.5	+4.5
	English Valleys	31.3	40.1	+8.8
Keokuk & Mahaska	Tri-County	52	59.7	+7.7
Mahaska	North Mahaska	35.2	37.7	+2.5
	Oskaloosa	43.2	45.6	+2.4
	Pella	18.8	16.6	-2.2
	Twin Cedars	40	47.3	+7.3
Van Buren	Harmony*	58.9	52.4	-6.5
	Van Buren	41.7		+10.7
Wapello, Jefferson, Davis, & Van Buren	Cardinal	56.9	59.1	+2.2
Wapello	Ottumwa	50.4	48.0	-2.4
Wapello, Mahaska, Keokuk, & Monroe	Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont	49.0	36.5	-12.5

Source: Iowa Department of Education - https://www.educateiowa.gov/education-statistics
Iowa Public School K-12 Students Eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch by District
*Harmony Schools Joined Van Buren School District in 2019-2020

Our second source of **food needs data** (**Tables 4-16 & 17**) is the United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. Low access to food is more than a family problem but a community problem. Low food access is high for everyone, not just low-income people. Counties less affected have food markets available beyond grocery stores that provide healthy and fresh foods, such as fresh vegetables and fruits. This does not include convenience stores.

For instance, 52% of the Van Buren County population has low access to a grocery store (**Table 4-16**). Low access is defined as living more than 1 mile from a grocery store in town and 10 miles if you are rural. The county has 11 main villages, and the county's seat has the only grocery store. The town page says it all, "…discover a world left untouched by time. You will find no fast-food restaurants." The USDA has the whole county marked as a food desert. 21.7% of Van Buren is low-income with a lack of close grocery stores (**Table 4-17**). More difficult when there is unreliable transportation and no local transit.

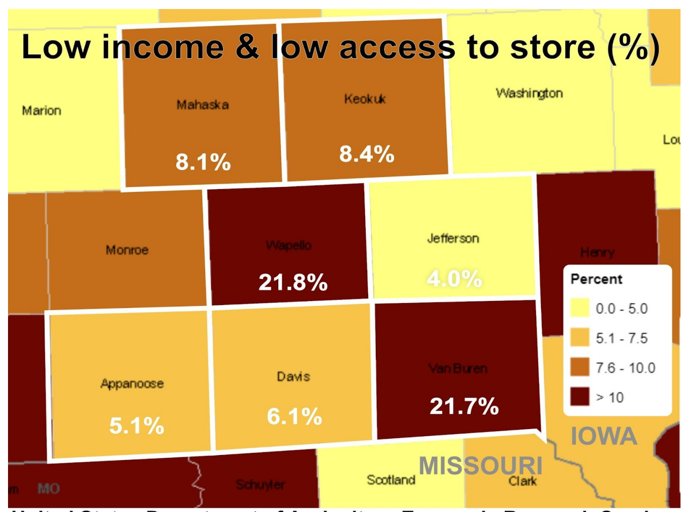


United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service
https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/go-to-the-atlas/
Percentage of people in a county living more than 1 mile from a supermarket or large grocery store if in an urban area, or more than 10 miles from a supermarket or large grocery store if in a rural area.

Table: 4-16

Wapello is at 44.2% (**Table 4-16**), which would be surprising since it has Ottumwa with 6 grocery stores and several ethnic food stores. Yet the rest of the towns in Wapello do not. Also, there is a decrease in community food resources to help low-income. Several churches closed food distributions. Plus, the local Food Bank stopped opening the warehouse monthly to families. Wapello's low income is at 21.8% (**Table 4-17**) struggling, with low access to grocery stores. The highest for our area.

Table: 4-17



United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service
https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/go-to-the-atlas/
Percentage of people in a county with low income and living more than 1 mile from a supermarket or large grocery store if in an urban area, or more than 10 miles from a supermarket or large grocery store if in a rural area.

Our community does not see food needs as a concern as strongly as our clients. In fact, they thought their counties were doing well. However, for our clients, it is a growing problem. Between 2015 and 2020 surveys, we see that food concerns have risen. Questions like, "Having enough food at home," went from 44.4% to 62.8%. As well as, the issue, "Getting food from food pantries, meal sites, or food shelves," went from 47.3% to 56.9%. Combining the long travel distances to obtain healthier foods at grocery stores with the struggles of being low-income causes a significant burden.

Overall, our census data reveals a rise in the poverty of women as single mothers and women that are working. Plus, an increase in minority individuals with 'Some other Race' being the fastest-growing low-income race/ethnicity. And our rural school districts need the most help with free/reduced lunches. With Van Buren and Wapello low-income struggling over 2x and even 4x more with food needs than our other counties.