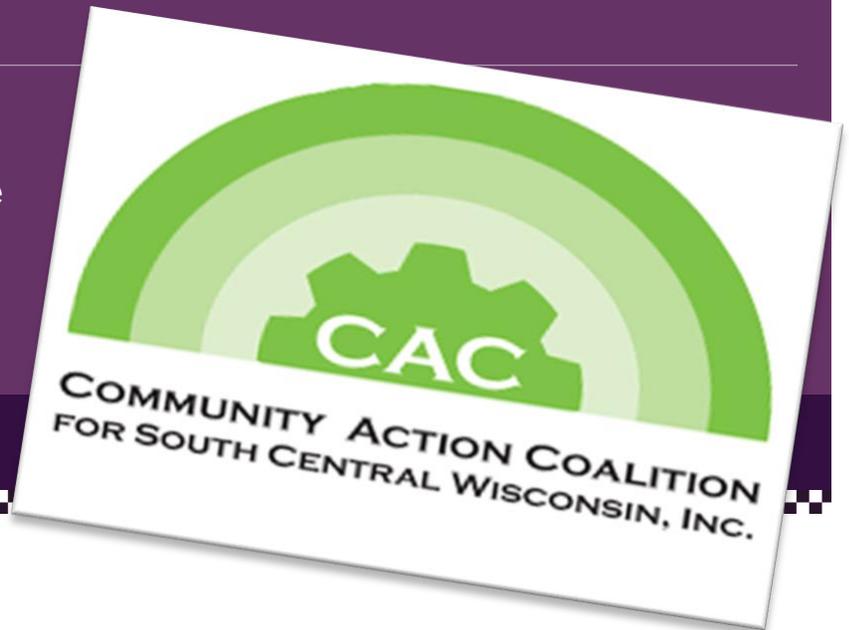


Responding to Community Needs

Improving Community Agencies Service to those in Poverty: Combining Numbers and Voices

Summer 2016



Bullet points about impact

- Point 1 Supported the CACSCW's purpose.
- Point 2 Assisted in CACSCW's triennial needs assessment requirement.
- Point 3 Informed CACSCW's strategic plan by identifying new areas of community needs.
- Point 4 Engaged students in hands-on applied research and community service while teaming with UW-Madison graduate students.

Purpose of study and results

The Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin (CACSCW) is required to conduct triennial community needs assessments to learn about emerging issues and unmet service needs related to poverty in Jefferson, Waukesha, and Dane counties. Two faculty with two undergraduate students conducted and analyzed data from six focus groups, plus analyzed *Community Commons* data to uncover community needs. Results suggest needs persist in the three counties, and community members appreciate current resources provided by the CACSCW. Results also reveal additional needs including a stronger connection to resources in the way of information, transportation, availability and emotional support. Recommendations are outlined in the full report.

Though primarily a contribution to the CACSCW's needs assessment request, our findings are part of a larger report that will be used to update the organization's strategic plan which drives how CACSCW makes decisions about the direction of agency programs and available resources.

Engaged Scholarship Pilot Grants

The UW-Whitewater School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education funds Engaged Scholarship Pilot grants to launch projects that partner with regional agencies to address local needs.