

**FINAL REPORT
SUBLETTE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT
OF NEEDS AND SERVICES
January 2023**



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I. Executive Summary of Findings

As a requirement to the receipt of Community Services Block Grant funds for Sublette County by the State of Wyoming Department of Health a community needs assessment is to be conducted every three years. The goal of the 2023 Sublette County Community Needs Assessment is to better understand the needs of people who are in poverty in Sublette County Wyoming. The intent of the Community Needs Assessment was to find out the following:

- What is the extent of poverty in Sublette County that includes data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age and race/ethnicity?
- What factors support the creation of poverty?
- What factors exacerbate the impacts of poverty?
- What services and resources are currently available to offset the creation or impacts of poverty by providing a direct and/or supportive role in the delivery of CSBG services and activities?
- What are the gaps in services to the low income?
- What are the barriers to services? (i.e., knowledge, getting to the resources, childcare)
- What are the priorities for meeting needs of the low income in Sublette County?

To complete the Sublette County Community Needs Assessment a four-pronged strategy was used in gaining information that included the following:

- Community surveys administered to low-income individuals and providers of services to low income;
- Community focus group meetings at two locations in Sublette County including Marbleton and Pinedale on November 10, 2022;
- Review of relevant quantitative data regarding the low income in Sublette County; and
- Dialogue on Poverty to gain additional comments from the Tripartite Board held on December 19, 2022 on the results of the Sublette County Community Needs Assessment.

Survey Results

The survey consisted of demographic questions and questions related to human services' needs. Ten service categories allowable under the Community Services Block Grant Program were used to guide the development of the categories of need used throughout the study. These categories were as follows:

- Education
- Emergency Services
- Employment and Training
- Health
- Housing (non-emergency)
- Income Management/Making Better Use of Available Resources
- Linkages with Other Programs
- Nutrition/Food (non-emergency)

- Self-Sufficiency
- Transportation

The community surveys were completed by 25 agency client respondents with 135 surveys distributed (18.5% rate of return). There were 36 provider respondents with 90 surveys distributed (40% rate of return). The client surveys included respondents from all Sublette County communities. It is to be noted that providers indicated that it was difficult for them to get clients to complete the surveys. They also indicated that their workloads were so heavy that it was difficult to find the time to get the surveys distributed.

The survey demographic questions for the clients were based on similar questions that are obtained for the Annual CSBG Report. Demographics of Sublette County client respondents are as follows.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SUBLETTE COUNTY SURVEY OF CLIENT RESPONDENTS	
Demographic Characteristic	Client Respondents - 25 clients responded; 135 surveys distributed (18.5% rate of return).
Community	40% are Pinedale.
Gender	87.5% respondents are female.
Age	48% are 24-44.
Ethnicity	92% are Not Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin.
Race	100% are of the White Race.
Highest Grade Completed	28% high school graduate/GED; 28% 12+ some post-secondary; 28% were a 2- or 4-year college graduate.
Has Health Insurance	92% has health insurance.
On Medicaid	84% are not on Medicaid.
On Medicare	78.3% are not on Medicare.
Disabled	88.3% are not disabled.
Family Type	40% are single parent female; 32% are two parent households
Number of Persons that Live in the Household	32% have 2 persons that live in the household; 28% have 4 persons that live in the household.
Children Under Age of 18 That Live in the Household	28% have 0 children, 24% have 1 child and 28% have 2 children under the age of 18 that live in the household.
Household Yearly Income	32% have a household yearly income of \$0-\$25,760.
Number of Sources That Provide Family Income	48% have one source of income; 48% has two sources of income.
Number of Adults Employed in Household	52% have 1 adult employed in the household.
Source of Family Income	68% indicated that their source of family income is employment only.
Housing Situation	48% own a home; 44% rent.
Amount Spent Per Month on Housing	56% spend \$1,001+ per month on housing.
Amount Spent Per Month on Groceries	32% spend \$401-\$500 per month on groceries.
Amount Spent Per Month on Medical	56% spend \$0-\$150 per month on medical.
Amount Spent Per Month on Prescriptions	80% spend \$0-\$150 on Prescriptions

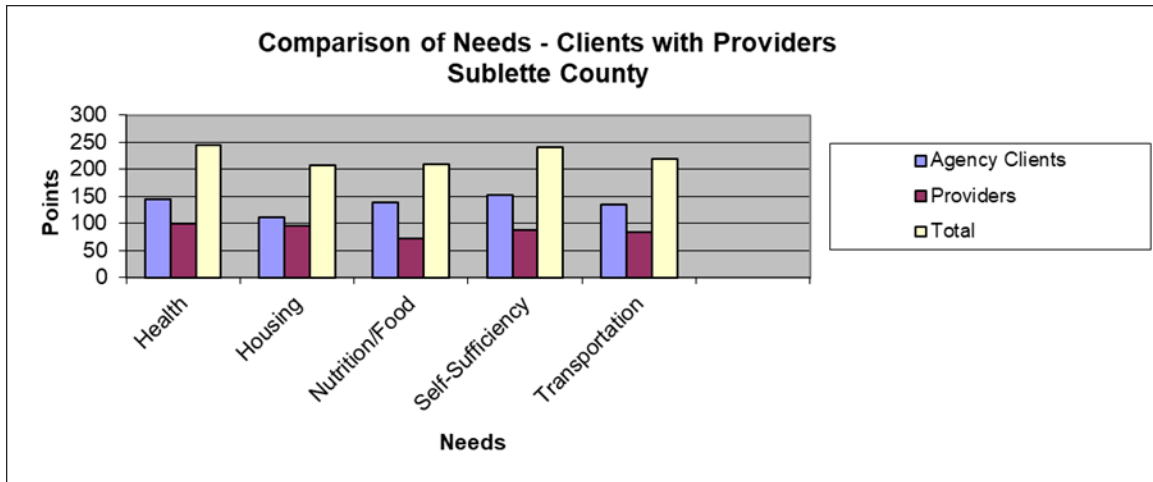
The human service agencies that responded are as follows:

asdf	Southwest Sublette County Senior Center
Bridges Out of Poverty	St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church
Children's Discovery Center	Sublette BOCES - 3
Children's Learning Center - Pinedale	Sublette County Health - 3
High Country Behavioral Health - Pinedale Office	Sublette County Hospital District - 2
High Country Behavioral Health – 2	Sublette County Public Health – 5
Pinedale Aquatic Center	Sublette County School District #9 - 3
Pinedale Elementary	Sublette County SAFV Task Force - 2
Pinedale Middle School - 2	The Chamber of Commerce
Rendezvous Pointe - 2	Town of Marbleton - 2
Ridley's Pharmacy	

Demographic questions for the agency respondents were asked so that a baseline of services data was determined. Their responses are as follows:

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SUBLETTE COUNTY SURVEY OF HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY RESPONDENTS	
Demographic Characteristic	Provider Respondents - 36 respondents , 90 surveys sent (40% rate of return)
Organization Status	Other organizations (38.9%) and Private, Not for Profit organizations (22.2%).
Part of Larger Organization	Yes – (38.9%) No – 62.2%
Employees/Volunteers	Full-Time: 1-115 Average: 24 Part-Time: 0-45, Average: 7 Volunteers: 0-50, Average: 7
How Many People Served	People Served in 2021: 0-88,313 Average: 7,708/month People served to date in 2022: 0-76,055 Average: 6,882/month
How Many Low Income Served	Low Income Served in 2021: 0-140 Average: 45 Low Income Served to Date in 2022: 0-140 Average: 48
Age Groups Served	Children – 21 agencies, Adolescents – 20 agencies, Seniors – 19 agencies, Adults – 16 agencies, Families – 16 agencies
Geographical Area Served	Sublette County Wyoming – 12 agencies
Criteria to Receive Services	The majority of organizations had none (16 or 55.2%), and age (8 or 27.6%).
Kind of Services Provided by Agencies	A majority of the organizations provide linkages to resources (9), transportation (8), medical services, dental services, prescription drugs and eye care (7), education/literacy (7) and mental health (7).
Kind of Assistance the Board Can Provide	Medicare help, resource information, money and education.

From the surveys, the clients and agencies ranked the highest priority of need for their community as follows:



B. Community Meetings were held on **November 10, 2022** in Marbleton with nine (9) participants and in Pinedale with 19 participants. The purpose of the meetings was to find out the following:

- Services and resources currently available to offset creation or impact of poverty
- Gaps in Services
- Priorities for meeting needs
- What needs to be worked on for families so they can become self-sufficient
- Other Concerns

Services and Resources Currently Available

- **Marbleton/Big Piney**
 - Big Piney – Marbleton Community Development
 - B.O.C.E.S. Outreach (Western Wyoming Community College) – Obtain G.E.D., opportunities for local scholarships and FAFSA to go to college
 - Boy Scouts - deliver firewood to those in need that can't pay for heat
 - Children's Learning Center, Alphabet Child Care and the school system
 - Community members - deliver meals to homes and provide money donations for families in need
 - Department of Family Services – upon request, E-Wrap and transitional housing funds
 - Food Basket
 - Diamond G Dental – provides dental services one day per week
 - Green Pastures Center Thrift Store
 - High Country Behavioral Health
 - K-12 Sublette County School District #9 – food, clothing, mental health services, medical care and housing from donations obtained from community members and homelessness screening and linkages to services
 - Mental Health grant for counseling services

- Southwest Sublette County Pioneer’s Senior Citizen Center – transportation within community and out-of-town for a 100-mile radius, congregate in-house meals, home-delivered meals, and family style meals served curbside
 - SAFV Task Force – housing for women and their children who have domestic violence issues
 - Senior housing and one income-adjusted apartment building
 - St. John’s of Jackson offers limited hospice services
 - Sublette County Sheriff’s Department - takes kids for community service
 - Sublette County Public Health - Diabetic testing, immunizations, MCH program, Best Beginnings and Prescription Medication Donation program
 - Sublette County Public Library – Big Piney
 - Teton Behavioral Health
 - Town of Marbleton - works with community businesses to hire kids, ages 13-17, takes donations from residents to help pay for water and sewer bill of those residents that can’t pay for it, checks-in with residents after snow storm, and donates to SAFV, MESA Therapeutic Horsemanship and Boys and Girl Scouts.
 - TRIO – Federal program from Riverton that identifies and provides services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to obtain post-secondary education
 - Marbleton/Big Piney Medical Clinic
- **Pinedale**
 - Bak Pak Program by Pinedale Community Church
 - BOCES – partners with Western Wyoming Community College to do ESL and workforce classes, scholarships up to \$1,000/person, EMT training and re-certification, Pinedale Wyrkshop (in-class technical tools), afterschool program for children who are on free and reduced lunch, and partners with Pinedale Preschool for school-supplies and equipped back packs
 - Boulder Roll Poker Run – raises funds for suicide awareness and prevention
 - Bridges Out of Poverty – classes to help people get out of poverty, community resource coordinator and links with United Us (software program) that provides resources
 - Church of Resurrection and other churches – Summer lunch program for kids and families.
 - Department of Family Services – LIEAP, SNAP, POWR and CHIPS programs
 - Episcopal Church – Short-term housing in church basement/hotel, funds to help pay bills, rent, school clothes and vehicle insurance, grants from State Episcopal Church for medical bills and mental health services, and manage Sublette County mental health fund
 - Sublette County Public Health Office – Diabetic testing, immunizations, MCH program,
 - Best Beginnings and Prescription Medication Donation program
 - Green River Health Care Foundation – funds for medical travel (gas, hotel, antibiotics and medical equipment)
 - High Country Behavioral Health
 - LIEAP – resources for utilities and other services
 - Pinedale Community Food Basket Thrift Store – food and clothing

- Pinedale Medical Clinic
- Prevention Coalition
- Rendezvous Pointe Senior Center
- SAFV TASK Force – shelter program, financial empowerment for clients, life skills classes and legal consultation
- K-12 Sublette County School District #1 – free and reduced lunches, coat drive and identifies homelessness in district
- Sublette County Public Library – Pinedale
- Sublette County Treatment Court
- Wyoming Infants and Children (WIC)

Gaps in Services in their Community

- **Marbleton/Big Piney:**
 - Transportation – Need to move people out of the area to obtain needed medical services.
 - Few options for full-time daycare or pre-school; need Head Start;
 - Low-income housing.
 - Mental health and substance abuse counseling services. Need ten times the counselors that we have. It takes 90 days to get an evaluation.
 - In-home services for hospice and other help. In process of training emergency management personnel for some related services.
 - No court-ordered parenting class.
- **Pinedale:**
 - Pregnancy Resource Center closed this year – provided diapers and other needed services for low-income.
 - Housing
 - Moving cost for those moving elsewhere to get a job and for the homeless
 - Medical assistance – people come from other states and they need assistance for medical services.
 - Medicaid expansion.
 - Provide assistance for people who are homeless. There is no homeless shelter and have to send them elsewhere.
 - Mental health – Currently 3-month wait at High Country Behavioral Health in-person and 2-3 weeks for telehealth. Teton Behavioral Health has 2 days wait, but there is no sliding fee scale.

Who is most affected by poverty?

- **Marbleton/Big Piney:** Did not have enough time to answer this question.
- **Pinedale:**
 - Retail workers
 - Elderly on a fixed income – have to make choices, i.e., gas or medications and dividing Senior Center meal into thirds.
 - Migrant or transitory people.

- Single moms – If they get a full-time job at \$15.00/hour they can't get child care subsidy or food stamps.

What would you like your community to work on for families to become self-sufficient?

- **Marbleton/Big Piney:**
 - Transportation
 - Those in poverty need to have hope. They don't know about the resources available.
- **Pinedale:**
 - Affordable housing – There is a committee that is working to get affordable housing in the community.
 - Education about poverty in the community, as people don't realize there is poverty in the community.

Is there anything that you wanted to say:

- **Marbleton/Big Piney:**
 - Mayor wants to know what they can do to help pay for children's lunch for those families that need it as that seems to be a doable endeavor.
- **Pinedale:**
 - Pinedale is transitioning into a retirement community as it is attractive to snowbirds. Twenty-five percent of housing is transitional (seasonal).
 - Pinedale is not boxed in as there is private development and other partnerships, such as the USDA. There is hope.
 - Education is needed about the poverty in the community. Bridges out of Poverty tries to get the word out. Elected officials are invited to lunch but they don't reply and fail to recognize there is a problem.
 - Big Piney is starving to death.
 - LaBarge has extreme poverty.

Relevant Data Regarding Sublette County

Over forty local, state, regional and federal data resources were scanned for quantitative data on the low-income population of Sublette County including:

Amount of Family Income Required for Poverty Guidelines	Median household income for Sublette County communities
Population by age and poverty	Number of households by income
Population and poverty by gender	Poverty
Population and poverty by race and ethnicity	Employment and unemployment
Cities and towns	Food Insecurity
Income/wages	Housing
	Cost of living

Community Service Block Grant Poverty Factors	Obesity
General health	Divorce rates
Health care access	Suicide rates
Birth rates	COVID-19 rates
Teen births	Disabilities
Maternal and infant health	Population and poverty by families
Mental health	Free and reduced lunch rates
Tobacco Use	District graduation rates
	Child care

The data mirrors the priority of needs as discussed in the surveys and community meetings.

Dialogue on Poverty – Tripartite Board

Three (3) tripartite board members (see Appendix H – Sign- In Sheets for Community Meetings) attended the Dialogue on Poverty on December 19, 2022, via ZOOM at 4:00PM. The results of the Sublette County Community Assessment of Needs and Services 2023 was discussed. A Power Point presentation of the Community Needs Assessment was presented (see Appendix G – Power Point Presentation, December 19, 2022, ZOOM). Following were their comments:

Extent of Poverty in Sublette County:

In discussion regarding the increased number of people served at the Big Piney/Marbleton Food Bank, it was discussed that the families served at the Pinedale Food Basket has decreased. Previously the Pinedale Food Bank served 95 families and now it is serving 50 families, a 47.3% decrease. It is believed that those residents with higher incomes are moving to the Pinedale area. The billionaires are pushing the millionaires out of Jackson and into Pinedale.

Folks with lower income live in Big Piney/Marbleton as there is lower cost of housing.

Believe that the numbers of those in poverty are significantly higher but many people don't ask for help.

Factors that Exacerbate the Impacts of Poverty:

In discussion that women make a lower wage than men, it was discussed that people (usually women) that begin employment at Ridley's Grocery store in Pinedale make \$10/hour. At the new Target in Jackson, people begin at \$24/hr.

Gaps in Services:

It was discussed that the Food Basket in Pinedale is trying to meet the gap of items (diapers, clothes, etc.), resources and services of the Pinedale Pregnancy Resource Center when it closed this year.

Recommended Priorities for Meeting Needs:

The members recommended that Housing and Transportation for medical care should be placed as higher priorities for meeting the needs of those in poverty.

Conclusions

Based on the strategies as described above, the following is concluded to answer the original questions set out in this community needs assessment:

A. Extent of Poverty in Sublette County:

- Sublette County holds 1.3% (701) of the statewide population (55,776) who live in poverty. The U.S. Census Bureau indicates that the low-income population is higher at 835.
- Nearly nine percent (8.5%) of total Sublette County population lives in poverty. Of this population, 50.8% are males and 49.2% are females.
- The White Alone Race in Sublette County showed the greatest amount of poverty at 8.2% or 779 people.
- Of ethnicity Hispanic or Latino showed the greatest percentage of people living in poverty with 32.7% or 237 people.
- The largest age population in poverty are the 5-17 years old with 290 youth or 16.8% of this population and the 18-34 years old with 306 adults or 16.6% of this population.
- In Sublette County there are 3,529 households; of these there are 177 households that earn under \$15,000 (5% of total households).
- Of the 2,296 families in Sublette County there are 1,028 families with related children; of these, there are 155 (15.1%) families that live in poverty that have related children. Of this population 55 (6.7%) are married couples, 0 (0%) are single fathers and 100 (75.2%) are single mothers.
- The Marbleton/Big Piney Food Pantry had a 400% increase since pre-Covid in number of families served in 2022 as 70 families are served twice per month. Previously 35 families were served once per month.

In response to the question, “In the past year have your clients had difficulty meeting expenses,” a provider survey respondent indicated, “Groceries and access to medical care are probably the most difficult pieces of this equation at present.”

- During the Dialogue on Poverty meeting in Marbleton on November 10, 2022 the Economic Development official for Marbleton and Big Piney indicated that, “**Twenty-eight percent (28%)** of kids in Sublette County School District #9 qualify for free and reduced lunch. The need is likely more than that because families are too proud to apply for free and reduced lunch.”

B. Factors that Support the Creation of Poverty:

- The cost of living is the **fourth highest** in the state. Apparel is ranked as the highest cost of living category for Sublette County (115). Food is the second highest at 107. Transportation is the third highest at 103 and medical is the lowest at 100. Housing and recreation and personal care have rankings below 100. One Hundred (100) is the statewide average.

In response to the question, “How serious a problem?” client respondents indicated that affordable clothing/shoes was a minor problem and affordable food choices was a serious to minor problem.

- Women working full time year-round in Sublette County are paid only 59 cents to every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men working full time.
- Service providing employees are typically female workers. Many low-income women work in the accommodation and food services with no health benefits making \$9.59/hour or \$19,956 annually if they work full-time.
- Average weekly wages in Sublette County decreased from \$1,093 in 2018 to \$1,052 in 2020. That represents a 3.7% decrease and is affecting the amount of money that wage earners are receiving.

In response to the question, “Who do you see as a vulnerable (at-risk population) in Sublette County and why?” a client survey respondent indicated, “Local wage earners and the unemployed; local jobs **not paying living wages to parents and families.**”

- There is not a major employer in the area as oil and gas has decreased tremendously in the past 10 years.
- Over nine percent (9.6%) of the Sublette County respondents have no health care coverage including health insurance, prepaid-plans such as HMOs or government plans such as Medicare and over eight (8.1%) percent of the Sublette County population indicated that they needed to see a doctor but couldn’t because of the cost at least one time in the past 12 months. The high cost of health care and prescription drugs is burdening low-income families.

To the question, “What is the greatest concern regarding your family?” a client survey respondent indicated, “Affordable insurance for my 45 yr. old daughter that doesn’t cost \$847.00 a month!”

C. Factors that Exacerbate the Impacts of Poverty:

- Rent for an average apartment has increased by 4% from \$865 in 2nd quarter 2021 to \$900 in second quarter 2022. Considerably higher is the cost of renting a home at \$1,274. For a low-income service worker making \$19,956 annually or \$1,663 monthly only \$389 would only be remaining for other needs, i.e., food, clothing, utilities, medical, prescription costs and unexpected costs.
- Nearly 214 households in Sublette County or 13% were cost burdened as their housing cost was 31%-50% of total income and 175 households or 10.6% were severe-cost burdened as their housing cost was above 50% of their total income.

In response to the question, “Who do you see as a vulnerable (at-risk population) in Sublette County and why?” a client survey respondent indicated, “Low income. It’s hard to afford cost of housing, etc. and put food on table.”

- There is no public transportation system in Sublette County except for transportation through Rendezvous Pointe in Pinedale and Southwest Sublette County Pioneers in Big Piney. Southwest Sublette County Pioneers in Big Piney will provide transportation of up to 100 miles for non-seniors. There is a need for transportation offered on evenings or week-ends or for longer destinations for medical services.
- While the unemployment rate has decreased by .8% from 4.3% (September 2021) to 3.4% in September 2022, employment decreased by 56 persons to 3,833 (September 2022) from 3,889 (September 2021.) resulting in people still looking for work or taking part-time jobs or temporary jobs that does not give them enough income to live on.

In response to the question, *“In the past year have you had difficulty meeting expenses?”* client survey respondent indicated, “I work part-time and my hours are cut as business is slow.”

- Lack of affordable child care or pre-school programs particularly for children under the age of 2. This provides issues for those parents trying to work with children.

In answer to the question, *“What is the greatest concern regarding your family?”* a client respondent indicated, “Cost of living and child care. Just because I work from home does not mean I can keep my kids at home and should be denied child care assistance.”

- There is need for more mental health services to address alcohol abuse, illegal drugs/substance abuse and depression and anxiety.

In response to, *“What is the greatest concern regarding your family?”* survey clients responded, “My son who is an adult now but unable to join adult world or workforce due to depression and anxiety.”

D. Services and Resources Currently Available to Offset Creation or Impacts of

Poverty:

- Many services are available in Marbleton/Big Piney and Pinedale with fewer services offered in Big Piney/Marbleton.
- While the Coordinated Care monthly meeting discontinued during COVID, the Sublette Prevention Coalition monthly meeting allows prevention agencies to discuss various issues in the community and learn about resources that other agencies provide.
- There are a number of agencies with web sites that provide a resource list including, bigpiney.com and marbleton.com, Sublette Prevention Coalition, Pinedale Online, greatnonprofits.org, Sublette Chamber of Commerce, Sublette County Sexual Assault and Family Violence Task Force, Sublette County Hospital District.org, Bridge of Sublette County.com, pinedaleearlychildhood.org, Wyoming Hunger Initiatives, Wyoming 2-1-1
- Bridge of Sublette County is a resource in the community that its goal is to “Reduce the social costs of poverty, strengthen the workforce, and build a more prosperous and sustainable community.” It has a dedicated community resource coordinator and is a part of the UnitesUs on-line site that helps agencies and communities to build and scale

a coordinated care network, track outcomes together, identify service gaps and at-risk populations, and most importantly, empower members of the community to take ownership of their own health.

- More work needs to be done by all agencies that serve the low-income to educate the Sublette County community of the extent of poverty – statistics, case stories without names, and various resources in the community need to be highlighted in the community.
- A number of agencies provide linkages to resources on a regular basis to their clients as a part of their services.
- A number of private agencies provides resources to fill in gaps for the low income including High Country Behavioral Health, SAFV Task Force, Rapid Response, Kickin’ Cancer, Green River Valley Health Foundation, Green Pastures Center Thrift Store, Lion’s Club, and St. Andrew’s in the Pines Episcopal Church, Town of Marbleton, Southwest Sublette County Pioneers Senior Center in Big Piney and donations from private citizens.

E. Gaps in Services:

- Marbleton/Big Piney:
 - *Transportation; people have to go elsewhere to obtain needed medical services; Senior Center indicated they can provide transportation out of-town of a 100-mile radius even to non-seniors
 - *Few options for full-time child care or pre-school; need Head Start;
 - *Low-income housing;
 - *Mental health and substance abuse counseling services;
 - *In-home services for hospice and other help;
 - *Parenting class.
- Pinedale:
 - *Pregnancy Resource Center closed this year. They provided diapers and other needed items and services to low-income families. They also coordinated with Sublette County Public Health on the car seat program. An agency is needed to provide those services;
 - *Low-Income housing;
 - *Moving cost;
 - *Medical Assistance – People come from other states and they need assistance for medical services. Many can’t afford the medication;
 - *Medicaid expansion in State of Wyoming;
 - *Need to provide assistance for people who are homeless as there is no homeless shelter in Pinedale and the only option is to move them onto somewhere else; and
 - *Mental Health – Currently there is a 3-month wait at High Country Behavioral Health. Telehealth at High Country Behavioral Health is 2-3 weeks. Teton Behavioral Therapy is 2 days and an immediate appointment for an emergency but they don’t do special rates and sliding scale and they will get billed.

F. Recommended Priorities for Meeting Needs:

Priority #1: Health – Medical or dental screening; primary health services as medication, clinic visits, and home health care; immunization, prevention of drug abuse or alcoholism, treatment of drug abuse; health services for expectant and new mothers and infants; mental health counseling; family planning and counseling, and transportation to medical services in other communities.

Priority #2: Transportation – In-town and out-of-town transportation to and from medical services; transportation to and from work; and transportation to and from grocery shopping and other needed services.

Priority #3: Housing (non-emergency) - Information, referral & follow-up; homeowner counseling; loan assistance; landlord/tenant issues; rental & mortgage assistance; utility assistance; home repair; home rehabilitation & weatherization assistance; and home energy conservation.

Priority #4 Self-Sufficiency: Case management, child care, youth programs or services, family/individual counseling programs, family development/intervention for family stabilization; and activities to cooperate with and participate in the planning and/or coordination of community services for low-income groups.

Priority #5: Nutrition/Food (non-emergency) – Home-delivered meals; congregate meals; food processing; food banks; garden projects; surplus food distribution; and nutritional education.

G. Barriers to Services:

- Clients need to know about services available and how to apply for them. Some possible aids would be:
 - A Sublette County Resource Directory on-line, on face book and in print.
 - Flier or business card printed with the names/numbers of agencies and services provided.
- Elected officials generally in Sublette County do not acknowledge that there is poverty in the county. Until there is acknowledgment of the poverty, there will not be a unified effort in the county to take actions to reduce poverty. Individual agencies and communities are trying to mitigate the poverty issues.

Participant at Marbleton/Big Piney Dialogue on Poverty meeting indicated that, “It was interesting to note that in a candidate forum for Sublette County officials, 13 out of 16 candidates stood up and said we don’t have an issue with poverty in Sublette County.’”

- Distance between communities in Sublette County impedes access to services particularly when one doesn’t have transportation.

- Agencies need to promote the resources and services that they provide as there is a fear that if the available state and federal resources aren't being used, they will lessen or go away.
- There is a stigma of going to get help. The attitude is one just needs to "cowboy up".

In response to the question, "In the past year have your clients had difficulty meeting expenses?" a provider survey respondent indicated, "Excessive lunch bills but won't sign up for free/reduced lunch."

- The low-income population feels that they don't have a voice in their community.

In response to the question, "How well does your community meet the needs of providing low-income people with a voice in their community?" the majority of both clients and providers indicated "poor" to "not at all".

- Language is a barrier with Spanish speaking families as it is difficult to communicate with them to provide services.

In response to the question, "Who do you see as a vulnerable (at-risk population in Sublette County and why?" a survey client respondent indicated, "People who don't speak English and need a translator."

The complete needs assessment report is available at the <https://www.hcbh.org>

Acknowledgement goes to Chereon Hoopes, Lincoln County CSBG Grants Manager and Kipp Dana of High Country Behavioral Health for assisting me in this process.

II. Local Community Needs Assessment Introduction

The completion of a needs assessment every three years is required by the State of Wyoming, Wyoming Department of Health, Community Services Programs, and is a pre-requisite to a local entity receiving Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds.

High Country Behavioral Health Board administers the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds for Sublette County. Currently there are three volunteer members on the Sublette County Tripartite Board (see **Appendix A**-Sublette County Tripartite Board Members.) Chereon Hoopes is the CSBG case manager for Sublette County.

Through word of mouth and referrals from non-profit agencies, clients have been referred to the Community Services Block Grant at High Country Behavioral Health to determine their eligibility for services. Those receiving CSBG services must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (see Table 23, Amount of Family Income to Meet Poverty Guidelines.) The FY 2022 Community Services Block Grant program expended a total of \$19,145.00 and assisted 15 families for the following:

- Rent: \$6,250.00, assisted 14 families
- Medical: \$5,744.20, assisted 5 families
- Dental: \$2,293.00, assisted 2 families
- Auto Repair: \$5,270.40, assisted 4 families

The **mission** statement of the Sublette County Tripartite Board is to “Eliminate the causes and conditions of poverty in participants’ lives by providing access to resources and removing barriers to self-sufficiency.” The **goal** is “Building self-sufficiency in low-income populations.”

Sublette County Wyoming is located in the western part of Wyoming. By area, it is the sixth largest county covering 3.2 million acres, of which eighty percent are public lands. The Wind River Range runs north to south along the eastern portion of the county, the Gros Ventre Wilderness lies to the north and the Salt River and Wyoming ranges run along the western side. The Board’s office is located at High Country Behavioral Health in Afton, Wyoming. Neighboring cities and towns are Big Piney, Marbleton and Pinedale, the county seat. Other census-designated places served by the Board include Bondurant, Boulder Cora and Daniel. The unincorporated community of Calpet lies in the County as well. The map below shows the location of the area served by the CSBG program. The main industry in Sublette County is mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction. It is to be noted that Sublette County has been affected tremendously by the downturn in oil and gas. According to Sam Bixler, Economic Development Coordinator for Marbleton/Big Piney, “at its peak there were 72 drilling rigs in the County and now we are down to 2.” The school district in Marbleton/Big Piney lost 200 children in the last ten years, with current enrollment at 448 students. This downturn in the economy not only affects individual families but it effects school funding and causes budgeting issues for the school district.



Non-profit agencies refer clients to High Country Behavioral Health to determine their eligibility. People requesting CSBG services must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (see Table 23 – Amount of Family Income to Meet Poverty Guidelines).

The goal of the Sublette County Community Survey of Services and Needs is to provide input to the High Country Behavioral Health Board in preparing the Community Action Plan. The Community Action Plan determines the need for Community Service Block Grant Funds, and assists the Board in determining the best uses for those funds. It is the intent of the assessment to answer the following questions:

- What is the extent of poverty in the county that includes data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age and race/ethnicity?
- What factors support the creation of poverty?
- What factors exacerbate the impacts of poverty?
- What services and resources are currently available to offset the creation or impacts of poverty?
- What are the gaps in services?
- What are the priorities for meeting needs of the low income?
- What are the barriers to services? (i.e., knowledge, getting to the resources, childcare)

The Board contracted with Sheela M. Schermetzler, Ed.S. of Spearfish, South Dakota, a state-wide consultant specializing in grant writing, fundraising, needs assessment, evaluation, and special projects, to conduct the needs assessment. Ms. Schermetzler has been involved with the Community Services Block Grant Program in the State of Wyoming for the past twenty-eight years. A description of her experience and background is found in **Appendix B**.

III. Description of Needs Assessment Strategies Utilized & Results

The approach to the community needs assessment is that information is derived from four select sources, that is, Community Service Block Grant clients, low-income clients of other government and non-profit agencies, human service agencies that serve the low income in the various communities of Sublette County, and other government and non-profit agencies. With that in mind, a four-pronged strategy was used in gaining such information and producing the community needs assessment. This strategy included community surveys, community focus groups at two communities in Sublette County, review of relevant quantitative data about Sublette County, and lastly gaining additional public comment in a community forum where the results of the assessment were discussed. Each strategy is described and results follow below:

A. Community Survey

1. Survey Distribution

The Client Surveys and the Human Service Provider Surveys were distributed to High Country Behavioral Health and other human service agencies that served the low income (see **Appendix E – Mailing List for Sublette County**). The faith-based community was also invited to complete a survey. The client surveys were distributed to clients of non-profit agencies serving the low income. By surveying two populations differing perceptions of human service issues will be obtained. Both the client survey and human service agencies serving the low income could complete the survey on-line. A Spanish client survey was also available for completion upon request.

The community surveys were completed by **25 agency client respondents** with 135 surveys distributed (**18.5%** rate of return). There were **36 provider respondents** with 90 surveys sent (**40%** rate of return). The client surveys included respondents from all Sublette County communities.

Samples of the surveys are presented in **Appendix C1 and C2**. The surveys were mailed/distributed in mid-October 2022 and the deadline for survey completion was December 9, 2022. Compilation of the surveys was held early December 2022.

2. Individual Survey – Agency Clients

The individual agency client survey (see **Appendix C1**) consisted of eighteen demographic questions that included the following:

- City/Town/Area of Residence
- Gender
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Race
- Highest grade completed in school (for adults 24 years or older only)
- Health Insurance

- Medicaid/Medicare
- Disabled
- Family Type
- Persons that live in household
- Children under the age of 18 that live in the household
- Number of adults employed in household
- Household Yearly Income
- Number of sources that provide income
- Number of Sources of Family Income
- Number of Adults Employed in Household
- Source of Family Income
- Kind of Housing
- Money spent per month on housing, groceries or medical and prescriptions

Fourteen questions were related to human services' needs. Of the fourteen questions, one question enlisted the ranking of community human service needs ranging from 10-1, two questions ranking (good, fair, poor, not at all) of how well these needs are being met in the respondents community and how well does the community meet the needs of various CSBG goals, a ranking question of health problems in the client's community, five multiple choice questions related to household income, expenses, and services used in the past year, a ranking question of 10 needs statements and three open-ended questions regarding at-risk populations, programs that would help the client's family and the greatest concern regarding their family.

The Community Services Block Grant Program was used to guide the development of the categories of need used throughout the study. These categories were:

- Education
- Emergency Services
- Employment and training
- Health
- Housing (non-emergency)
- Income Management/Making better use of available resources
- Linkages with other programs.
- Nutrition/food (non-emergency)
- Self-Sufficiency
- Transportation

3. Human Service Agency Survey

The human service agency survey consisted of fifteen demographic questions (see **Appendix C2**) that included the following:

- Organization Name
- Organization Status
- If organization was part of a larger organization and if so, name of organization
- Name and title of organization contact

- Organization physical address
- Organization mailing address
- Organization phone number
- Organization contact e-mail
- Number of employees/volunteers (full-time, part-time and volunteers)
- Organizational mission
- How many people did agency serve and number of low-income in 2019?
- Age groups that are served
- Geographical area that is served
- Specific criteria to obtain services
- Services that the organization provides
- Kind of assistance that High Country Behavioral Health can provide

The human service provider survey also included fourteen questions related to human services' needs. Of the fourteen questions, one question enlisted the ranking of community human service needs ranging from 10-1, two questions ranking (good, fair, poor, not at all) of how well these needs are being met in the respondents community and how well does the community meet the needs of various CSBG goals, a ranking question of health problems in the community, five multiple choice questions related to their client's household income, expenses, and services used in the past year, a ranking question of 10 needs statements for their clients and three open-ended questions regarding at-risk populations, programs that would help Sublette County families and the greatest concern regarding their clients and their families.

4. Summary of Data for Individual Survey – CSBG and Other Low Income Clients

Table 1 summarize the demographics of the client respondents for Questions 1-15, Table 2 – 9 summarizes the needs of agency clients and Table 10 summarizes the responses to the open-ended questions.

TABLE 1 – Summary of Client Survey Responses	
Q. 1 Community (City/Town/Area of Residence) –Most client respondents (10 or 40%) were from Pinedale. There were client respondents from every community in Sublette County.	
Category	Number of Clients
Pinedale	10 (40%)
Big Piney	7 (28%)
Marbleton	5 (20%)
Other	3 (12%) Responses: Boulder – 1 Afton – 1 LaBarge – 1
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 2 Gender – Most client respondents (21 or 87.5%) are female.	
Category	Number of Clients

Male	2 (12.5%)
Female	21 (87.5%)
Total	24 (96%) responded (1 skipped)
Q. 3 Age – Forty-eight percent (48%) of the client respondents are in the age range of 24-44. There were client respondents from every age group.	
Category	Number of Clients
Under 18	1 (4%)
18-23	1 (4%)
24-44	12 (48%)
45-54	6 (24%)
55-69	3 (12%)
70+	2 (8%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 4 Ethnicity – Most (92%) of the clients are Not Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origins.	
Category	Number of Clients
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origins	2 (8%)
Not Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origins	23 (92%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 5 Race – All (100%) of the client respondents are of the White Race.	
Category	Number of Clients
White	25 (100%)
Black or African American	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0
Asian	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Other	0
Multi-Race	0
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 6 Highest Grade Completed – Evenly numbered 28% of clients had high school graduate/GED, 12+ Some Post-Secondary or 2- or 4- years College Graduate.	
Category	Number of Clients
0-8	1 (4%)
9-12/Non-Graduate	0 (0%)
High School Graduate/GED	7 (28%)
12+Some Post-Secondary	7 (28%)
2- or 4-years College Graduate	7 (28%)
Technical Skills/Certification	3 (12%)
	Response: *Massage Therapy *Dental Assistant Certification *Master's Degree

Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 7 Health Insurance – A majority (23 clients or 92%) had health insurance.	
Category	Number of Clients
Yes	23 (92%)
No	2 (8%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 8a. Are you on Medicaid? A majority (21 clients or 84%) are not on Medicaid.	
Category	Number of Clients
Yes	4 (16%)
No	21 (84%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 8b. Are you on Medicare? A majority (18 clients or 78.3%) are not on Medicare.	
Yes	5 (21.7%)
No	18 (78.3%)
Total	23 (92%) responded (2 skipped)
Q. 9 Are you disabled? A majority (22 clients or 88%) or are not disabled.	
Category	Number of Clients
Yes	3 (12%)
No	22 (88%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 10 What is your family type? Forty percent (40%) or 10 clients are single parent female households and thirty-two percent (32%) or 8 households are two parent households.	
Category	Number of Clients
Single Parent Female	10 (40%)
Single Parent Male	1 (4%)
Two Parent Household	8 (32%)
Single Person	1 (4%)
Two Adults No Children	2 (8%)
Grandparent	2 (8%)
Guardian	0 (0%)
Other	1 (4%)
	Response: *Married but Dad's never home so pretty much single Mom of 4.
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 11 How Many Persons Live in Your Household? Thirty-two percent (32% or 8 clients) have 2 people that live in the household and 28% or 7 clients that have 4 people that live in the household.	
Category	Number of Clients
1	2 (8%)
2	8 (32%)
3	4 (16%)
4	7 (28%)
5	2 (8%)

6	1 (4%)
7	1 (4%)
8 persons or more	0 (0%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 12 How many children under the age of 18 live in your household? Twenty-eight percent (28%) had 0 children and 2 children and twenty-four percent had 1 child.	
Category	Number of Clients
0	7 (28%)
1	6 (24%)
2	7 (28%)
3	2 (8%)
4	2 (8%)
5	1 (4%)
6	0 (0%)
7	0 (0%)
8 children or more	0 (0%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 13 What is your approximate household yearly income? Most (32% or 8) responding clients have a household yearly income of \$0-\$25,760.	
Category	Number of Clients
0-\$25,760	8 (32%)
\$25,761-\$34,840	4 (16%)
\$34,841-\$43,920	3 (12%)
\$43,921-\$53,000	2 (8%)
\$53,001-\$62,080	1 (4%)
\$62,081-\$71,160	3 (12%)
\$71,161-\$80,240	1 (4%)
\$80,241-\$89,320	1 (4%)
\$89,321+	2 (8%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 14 How is your family income provided? Forty-eight percent (12 clients each) indicated they had a single source of income and two sources of income.	
Category	Number of Clients
Single Source of Income	12 (48%)
Two Sources of Income	12 (48%)
Multiple Source of Income	1 (4%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 15 How many adults are employed in your household? The majority (52% or 13) of client respondents indicated that 1 adult is employed in the household.	
Category	Number of Clients
0	4 (16%)
1	13 (52%)
2	8 (32%)
3	0 (0%)
4	0 (0%)
5	0 (0%)

Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 16 What is the source of your family income? The majority (68% or 17) of client respondents indicated that their source of family income was Employment Only.	
Category	Number of Clients
TANF	0 (0%)
SSI	1 (4%)
Social Security	1 (4%)
Pension	0 (0%)
General Assistance	0 (0%)
Unemployment Insurance	0 (0%)
Employment + Other	1 (4%)
Employment Only	17 (68%)
Other	5 (20%) Responses: *Child support, SSDI *Child support, soc. sec. disability, and SSI *Social Security and Pension *Part-time 12 hrs. or less a week *Unemployed no income
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 17 Do You? (Housing Situation) – Forty-eight percent (48%) of client respondents rent and 44% (11 clients) own their home.	
Category	Number of Clients
Own	11 (44%)
Rent	12 (48%)
Homeless	1 (4%)
Other?	1 (4%) Response: *Child support
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 18a. How much money do you spend per month on housing? The majority (56% or 14) of client respondents spend \$1,001 and + per month on housing.	
Category	Number of Clients
0-\$250	3 (12%)
\$251-\$500	5 (20%)
\$501-\$750	2 (8%)
\$751-\$1,000	1 (4%)
\$1,001 and +	14 (56%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 18b. How much money do you spend per month on groceries? Most (32% or 8) of client respondents spend \$401 - \$500 per month on groceries.	
Category	Number of Clients
0-\$150	0 (0%)
\$151-\$300	6 (24%)
\$301-\$400	6 (24%)
\$401-\$500	8 (32%)
\$500 and +	5 (20%)

Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 18c. How much money do you spend per month on Medical? A majority (56% or 14) of client respondents spend 0-\$150 per month on Medical.	
Category	Number of Clients
0-\$150	14 (56%)
\$151-\$300	4 (16%)
\$301-\$400	5 (20%)
\$401-\$500	1 (4%)
\$500 and +	1 (4%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q.18d. Money Spent Per Month on Prescriptions? The majority (80% or 20) client respondents indicated that they spent \$0 – \$150 on Prescriptions.	
Category	Number of Clients
0-\$150	20 (80%)
\$151-\$300	2 (8%)
\$301-\$400	2 (8%)
\$401-\$500	1 (4%)
\$500 and +	0 (0%)
Total	25 (100%) responded

Please see **Appendix D-1** that shows bar graphs for the responses on each of the questions above.

In Question #19, client respondents ranked self-sufficiency, health, nutrition/food (non-emergency), transportation and income management/making better use of available resources as the most important needs. **Table 2** shows the rankings:

TABLE 2 – Five Most Important Needs of Client Respondents	
25 (100%) responded	
Category – Human Service Need	Number of Points
Education	124
Emergency Services	104
Employment and Training	111
Health	145 (#2)
Housing	111
Income Management/Making Better Use of Available Resources	133 (#5)
Linkages with Other Programs	128
Nutrition/Food (non-emergency)	138 (#3)
Self-Sufficiency	153 (#1)
Transportation	135 (#4)

Graph 3 shows the five most important needs of Sublette County clients:

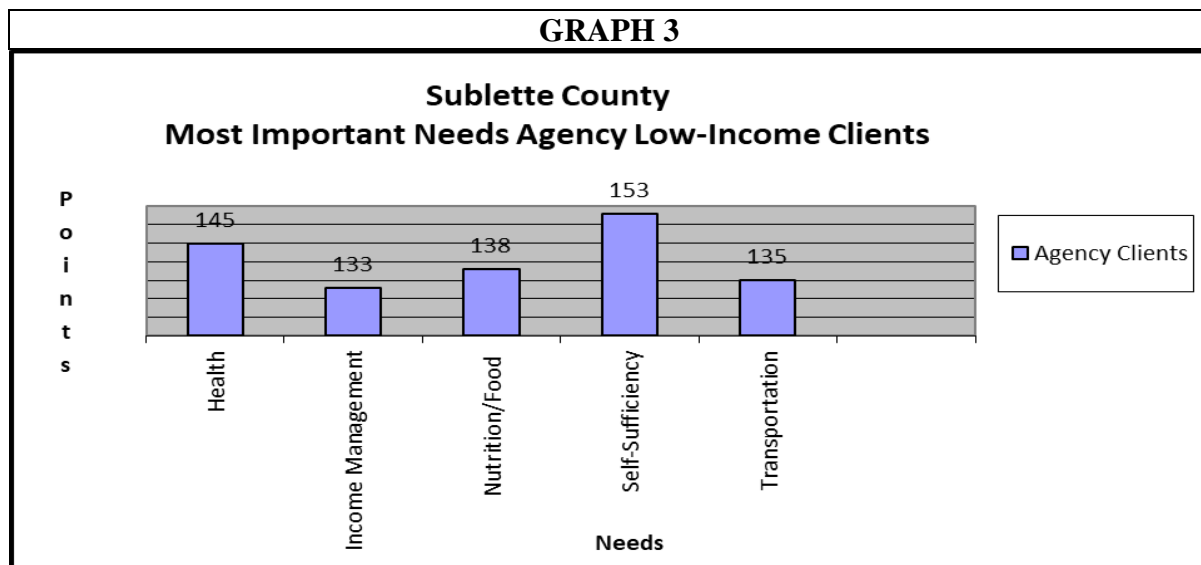


Table 4 reflects the second set of rankings that describe how well the human services needs are being met in the respondent's community. Respondents indicated whether they were good, fair, poor, or not at all.

TABLE 4
Survey Responses of CSBG And Other Agency Clients
“How Well Are These Needs Being Met in Your Community?”

Q.20 How well are these needs being met in your community? Education was given a ranking of good. Emergency assistance, income management/making better use of available resources and self-sufficiency was given a fair ranking. Employment and training and housing received a ranking of poor. Transportation and housing received a ranking of not at all.

<i>Human Service Need</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Not at All</i>
Education	15	4	6	0
Emergency Assistance	4	16	4	1
Employment & Training	4	9	11	1
Health	6	12	7	0
Housing	0	7	11	7
Linkages with Other Programs	3	12	9	1
Income Management/Making Better Use of Available Resources	1	16	7	1
Nutrition/ Food	4	12	8	1
Self-Sufficiency	2	15	5	3
Transportation	0	8	6	12
Total	25 (100%) Responded			

□ Ranking with greatest number

Question 21 indicates the ranking of health problems in the client’s community. The results are shown in **Table 5** below:

TABLE 5	
Ranking of Health Problems in Sublette County	
Q. 21 Rank health problems in your community. Client respondents ranked alcohol abuse as the highest health problem, suicide as the second highest health problem, tobacco use as the third highest health problem, use of illegal drugs/substance abuse as the fourth highest health problem in Sublette County and mental health as the fifth highest health problem.	
Category – Health Problems	Number of Points
Alcohol Abuse	120 (#1)
COVID-19	89 (#8)
Mental Health	110 (#5)
Obesity	92 (#6 - tied)
Suicide	114 (#2)
Teen Pregnancy	92 (#6 - tied)
Tobacco Use	113(#3)
Use of Illegal Drugs/Substance Abuse	112 (#4)
<i>Total</i>	24 (96%) Responded (1 skipped)

□ Ranking with greatest number

Graph 6 shows the ranking of health problems in Sublette County:

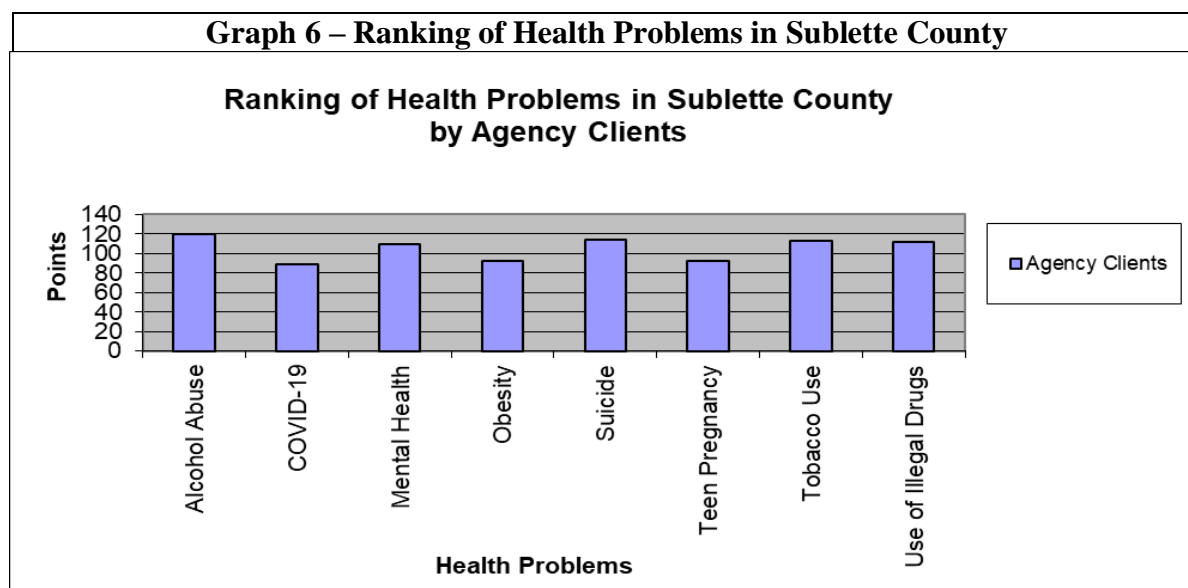


Table 7 reflects the fourth set of ranking questions related to how well the community meets the needs of helping low-income people to become more self-sufficient, improving the conditions in which low-income people lives are improved, providing low-income people with a voice in their community, partnerships are achieved among agencies so that low-income people are helped and agencies are working together to solve the problems of low-income. The results are as follows:

TABLE 7				
Ranking “How Well Does Your Community Meet the Needs Of . . .”				
25 (100%) Responded				
Q. 22 How well does your community meet the needs of . . .” Majority of client respondents ranked all need areas except “Partnerships are achieved among agencies so that low- income people are helped as “poor.” “Providing low-income people with a voice in their community” was ranked “poor” to “not at all”.				
<i>Human Service Need</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Not at All</i>
Helping low-income people become more self-sufficient?	1	7	15	3
Improving the conditions in which low-income people lives are improved?	1	7	14	3
Providing low-income people with a voice in their community?	1	5	14	7
Partnerships are achieved among agencies so that low-income people are helped?	3	12	6	4
Agencies are working together to solve the problems of low-income?	2	9	10	4

□ Ranking with greatest number

Table 8 continues survey responses of CSBG and other agency for questions 23-27 as follows:

TABLE 8– Summary of Survey Responses	
Questions 23-27	
Q. 23 In the past year has your household income . . . : Majority of client respondents indicated that household income decreased (48%) in the past year.	
<i>Category</i>	<i>Number of Clients</i>
Increased	6 (24%)

Decreased	12 (48%)
Stayed the Same	9 (36%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 24 Why has your income increased or decreased? The majority client respondents indicated that their income decreased due to the high cost of living (12 clients).	
Category	Number of Clients
Change in Marital Status	3
Death in family	0
Domestic violence	2
High Cost of Living	12
Promotion/Better paying job	5
Reduction of work hours	4
Retirement	2
Serious or chronic illness	3
Under-employed (working, but qualified for better job)	6
Unemployed	1
Other	6 Responses: *Out for surgery - 2 *Started part time job *Low-paying jobs *Overtime *Daughter is ill with an undiagnosed problem, unable to work.
Total	21 (84%) Responded (4 skipped)
Q. 25 In the past year have you had difficulty meeting expenses? The majority (64%) of client respondents indicated that they did have difficulty meeting expenses with various responses indicated.	
Category	Number of Clients
No	9 (36%)
Yes	16 (64%) Responses: *A little bit. gas, utilities. no real savings. *No savings and unemployed off and on mostly due to lack of Tra (/) *Groceries and gas are higher. Car repairs with no savings. *No response. *Not much money after bills. *I am above the income level for assistance but still can't get by. - 2 *Rent \$900 I get paid \$1147 a month hard to make ends meet. *Husband doesn't really work in the winter, so his hours are cut.

	<p>*Was denied child care assistance because I work from home for a medical company/desk job. Rent is insanely impossible for a single parent to afford. Beyond words let down.</p> <p>*Medical bills.</p> <p>*I work part time and my hours are cut as business is slow.</p> <p>*Husband has reduced his work hours and pay and prices keep rising.</p> <p>*Groceries have increased, property taxes have increased making it difficult to stay ahead.</p> <p>*The monopoly of Ridley's, low-paying jobs.</p> <p>*No response.</p>
Total	25 (100%) Responded
Q. 26 What services did your family need in the past year? Food bank and free or reduced-price lunch that clients as services that were needed.	
Category	
Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Subsidy	7
Education and literary assistance	0
Employment training services	1
Child Care Assistance	6
Equality Care, Kid Care or other insurance	4
Food Bank	11
Free or reduced-price lunch	10
LIEAP	5
Low-income housing or renter's assistance	8
Medicare, Medicaid or Medicaid Waiver	5
Mortgage Assistance	0
POWER	1
Senior Services	0
SNAP	7
Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)	3
WIC	2
VA military benefits	1
Youth Services	5
None	5
Other	3
	<p>Responses:</p> <p>*Applied for Disability SSDI in Aug and still haven't received any help.</p> <p>*Sliding fee for medical expenses.</p> <p>*ERAP.</p>

Total	24 (96%) Responded (1 skipped)
Q.27 Were the services . . .? A majority (15) of client respondents indicated that they had received the services.	
Category	Number of Clients
Received	15
Denied	2
Services Not Available	2
Total	18 (72%) Responded (7 skipped)

Table 9 reflects the fifth set of ranking questions related to how serious a problem is considered to be. The problems listed are affordable clothing/shoes, affordable food choices, affordable place to live, paying for utilities, safe place to live, child care, transportation, affordable medical care, affordable dental care, affordable vision care and affordable medical specialists.

Table 9 – “How Serious a Problem?”			
Q. 28 How serious a problem is each of the following for your family? A majority of the clients ranked affordable food choices, affordable place to live, paying for utilities, affordable medical care, affordable dental care, affordable vision care and affordable medical specialists are ranked as serious problems and affordable clothing/shoes, affordable food choices, affordable medical care and affordable prescriptions drugs are considered a minor problem.			
Category	Serious Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem
Affordable Clothing/ Shoes	4	12	9
Affordable Food Choices	11	10	4
Affordable Place to Live	11	5	9
Paying for Utilities	11	8	6
Safe Place to Live	1	8	16
Child Care	5	2	18
Affordable Medical Care	10	11	4
Affordable Dental Care	14	5	6
Affordable Vision Care	14	5	6
Affordable Prescription Drugs	9	10	6
Affordable Medical Specialist	16	3	6
Transportation, In-County	5	1	19
Transportation, Out-Of-County	8	0	17
Total	25 (100%) Responded		

Table 10 continues the other survey responses of CSBG and other agency clients for questions 29-32:

TABLE 10 – Summary of Survey Responses Questions 29-32	
Q. 29 Do you know of any two or more community agencies providing the same service? One hundred percent (100% or 25 clients) indicated that they did not know of any two or more agencies providing the same service.	
Category	Number of Clients
Yes	0 (0%) Responses: *Public health and the health care district, pregnancy resources, assistance to transients, etc.
No	25 (100%)
Total	25 (100%) responded
Q. 30 Who do you see as a vulnerable (at-risk population) in Sublette County and why? The elderly, low-income families, and single moms and single parents are considered vulnerable populations by the client respondents.	
Responses: *Elderly due to cost or living in Sublette County. /*Seniors. (2)/Seniors (inflation). /Elderly living alone. / Elderly, lack of medical services nearby – 6 *Low income, it's hard to afford cost of housing, etc. and put food on table. /Low income from all age groups. / Low income and residents who are low income 92) – 4 *Single moms - can't afford housing or food. /Single mothers. (2)/ Single Mom's or women needing to be single Mom's. Things are too expensive to do it alone. /Women left by sign. Other with babies/ children. / Low-income family's single moms and dads. (2) - 7 *Single parents. /*Single parent families. – 2 *Young adults w/ MH problems. *People w/out cars. *Children- High cost of living. *Youth. * Men 25-45 mental health and alcohol. *People w/disabilities. *The Hispanic population. They don't ask for help. *People who need to travel for medical. No way to get there. NA People who don't speak English and need a translator. *Those fighting undiagnosed illness. *Local wage earners and the unemployed: local jobs not paying living wages to parents and families	
Total	24 (96%) Responded (1 skipped)
Q 31. Are there any programs that would help Sublette County families that are not available? Transportation services and transportation for the elderly, childcare options and after school programs and affordable housing are programs that would help Sublette County families.	
Responses: *Job training for young adults. *Transportation. (2) /Transportation providers. /Transportation for the elderly. - 4 *Childcare options (not affordable or enough) (2)/After school programs. – 3 *More housing. /Affordable housing. - 2	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Parenting programs. *Legal aid, transportation providers *Yes, free medical/dental care! *More mental health services and facilities *Everywhere I ask both local who told me to contact State Programs that denied help. *Better grocery stores. *Bi-lingual Training for both new residents and those who are here already. *Definitely. *Probably, not sure on names. *I don't know. - 5 	
Total	18 (72%) Responded (7 skipped)
<p>Q 32. What is the greatest concern regarding your family? Client respondents indicated that their greatest concern is affordable housing, reliable transportation, staying healthy, affording food, gas, heating and rent on top of all other bills, and affordable healthcare and insurance are the greatest concerns regarding clients' family.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Rent is going up in price. ? /Affordable housing. (2) - 3 *Transportation. /Reliable transportation. - 2 *Staying healthy. / Being healthy and safe. – 2 *Affording food and gas and heating and rent on top of all other bills I have. Feel like I can't catch up after my surgery. – 2 *Affordable Insurance for my 45 yr. old daughter that doesn't cost \$847.00 a month! /Affordable Healthcare, and access to a hospital. - 2 *My son who is an adult now but unable to join adult world or workforce due to depression and anxiety. *Cost of food and qualities. *Low-income jobs. *Money for anything extra. *Being able to put food on the table! *24-hour medical coverage *Finances. *Dental insurance is NOT affordable. *Cost of living and child care. Just because I work from home does not mean I can keep my kids home and should be denied child care assistance. I work for a medical company and can't be caring for my kids at the same time while working at my computer. They are only 4 years old! Cost of rent is extremely out of line and there needs to be more available resources for single income single parents. We deserve a home too! /The cost of living that has sky rocketed. We do not have a decent grocery store; people mainly purchase groceries out of town. Property taxes have increased making mortgages increase. finding a local job that will support a family *Medical bills. *Bullies in the community. *Mental health care is the primary concern 	
Total	22 (88%) Responded (3 skipped)

Survey Monkey graphs for the CSBG and other agency clients are found in **Appendix D1**.

5. Summary of Data for Human Service Agency Surveys

Demographics were compiled for both the Community Service Block Grant Agencies and other human service agencies that responded. A summary of the demographics is found in

Table 11 below:

TABLE 11– Summary of Human Service Agency Demographics	
Q. 1 Names of Agencies That Responded – Thirty-five (35) agencies completed the survey.	
asdf Bridges Out of Poverty Children's Discovery Center Children's Learning Center - Pinedale High Country Behavioral Health - Pinedale Office High Country Behavioral Health – 2 Pinedale Aquatic Center Pinedale Elementary Pinedale Middle School - 2 Rendezvous Pointe - 2 Ridley's Pharmacy Southwest Sublette County Senior Center St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church Sublette BOCES - 3 Sublette County Health - 3 Sublette County Hospital District - 2 Sublette County Public Health – 5 Sublette County School District #9 - 3 Sublette County SAFV Task Force - 2 The Chamber of Commerce Town of Marbleton - 2	
Total	36 (100%) responded
Q. 2 Organization Status – Most of the organizations that responded other organizations (38.9%) and Private, Not for Profit organizations (22.2%).	
Private, for Profit	4 (11.1%)
Private, Not for Profit	8 (22.2%)
Federal Government	0 (0%)
State Government	5 (13.9%)
County Government	3 (8.3%)
City Government	2 (5.6%)
Association of Volunteers	0 (0%)
Other	14 (38.9%) Responses: *Public school (3)/school/school district - 3 *Government - Special Hospital District *Special Entity *State & County entity *Local Government *School/WWCC partnership (BOCES) - 2 *Non-Profit Senior Center *Church, not for profit *asdf

Total	36 (100%) Responded
Q. 3 Part of a Larger Organization – Over sixty-one percent (61.1% or 22) of the organizations were not part of a larger organization.	
Yes	14 (38.9%) *Children's Learning Center, Region 4 Developmental Preschool * Episcopal Church in Wyoming and The Episcopal Church *High Country Behavioral Health * Ridley's Family Market *Sublette County School District #1- 3 *WWCC is our Outreach Educational College *Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault - 2 *Wyoming Department of Health - 3 *Wyoming Department of Health & Sublette County
No	22 (61.1%)
Total	36 (100%) Responded
Category	Demographics
Q. 4 Name and Title of Organization Contact	Total: 34 (94.4%) Responded (2 skipped)
Q. 5 Organization Physical Address	Total: 34 (94.4%) Responded (2 skipped)
Q.6 Organization Mailing Address (if different then physical address)	Total: 29 (80.6%) Responded, (7 skipped)
Q. 7 Organization Phone Number/E-Mail Address	Phone: 32 Responded (88.9%) (4 skipped) E-Mail: 28 Responded (77.8%) (8 skipped) Total: 32 (88.9%) (4 skipped)
Q. 8 Employees/Volunteers	Full-Time: 1-115 Average: 24 Part-Time: 0-45, Average: 7 Volunteers: 0-50, Average: 7 Total: 30 (83.3%) (6 skipped)
Q. 9 Organizational Mission	Total: 26 (72.2%) Responded (10 skipped)
Q. 10a. How many people did agency serve in 2021?	10.a. People Served in 2021 0-88,313 Average: 7,708
Q. 10 b. Number of low-income Served in 2021?	10.b. Low-Income Served in 2021 0-140 Average: 45
Q. 10c. How many people did agency serve to date in 2022?	10.c. People served to date in 2022 0-76,055 Average: 6,882
Q. 10d. Number of low-income served to date in 2022?	10.d. Low-Income Served in 2022 0-140 Average: 48
Total	23 (63.9%) Responded (13 skipped)

Q. 11 Age Groups – The majority of age groups that were served were children (21), adolescents (20), seniors (19), adults (16), and families (16).	
Infants	12
Children	21
Adolescents	20
Adults	16
Seniors	19
Families	16
Other	0
Total	28 (77.8%) Responded (8 skipped)
Q. 12 Geographical Area Served – The majority of organizations serve Sublette County (12).	
Sublette County – 12	
Lincoln and Sublette County -2	
Rural – 2	
South end of Sublette County - 2	
County - 1	
Western Wyoming, Sublette County - 1	
We cover the towns of Marbleton, Big Piney, and LaBarge - 1	
Town of Marbleton - 1	
Mainly Sublette County - 1	
Sublette County (within Sublette #1 School District boundaries)	
Southwest Sublette County Wyoming	
Pinedale, Boulder, Cora, Daniel	
Asdf	
Pinedale	
Total	28 (77.8%) Responded (8 skipped)
Q. 13 Criteria to Receive Services – The majority of organizations had none (16 or 55.2%), and age (8 or 27.6%).	
Age	8 (27.6%)
Gender	1 (3.5%)
Income	4 (13.8%)
Problem/Diagnosis	1 (3.4%)
None	16 (55.2%)
Other	2 (6.9%)
	Responses: *We make referrals to/or accept requests from students/parents for the community Bak Pak program. *We provide services to all ages, gender, income, problems and diagnosis. If we don't have the service, we give resources. *Currently 200% of poverty level. *Individual affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. Also includes human trafficking and elder abuse.

	<p>*CLC offers preschool for children ages 2-5, and early childhood intervention services for children birth - age 5. There is a tuition fee for preschool, however we do have a grant through TANF for up to 18 families that qualify in the county to receive preschool at no cost. Early intervention services are provided for children who qualify at no charge to the family.</p> <p>*We currently only take children over the age of 2.</p> <p>*We are a senior center.</p>
Total	29 (80.5%) Responded (7 skipped)
Q. 14 Kind of Services Provided by Organizations to People of Low Income in Sublette County – A majority of the organizations provide linkages to resources (9), transportation (8), medical services, dental services, prescription drugs and eye care (7), education/literacy (7) and mental health (7).	
Medical Services, Dental Services, Prescription Drugs and Eyecare	7
Affordable Housing	2
Child Care	1
Disabilities	1
Education/Literacy	7
Emergency Services	4
Employment/Training	2
Family Services	2
Food/Commodities/Nutrition Services	5
Linkages to Resources	9
Mental Health	7
Senior Services	3
Substance Abuse Services	1
Transportation	8
Youth Services	3
Other	<p>5</p> <p>Responses: *We do not provide services for Lincoln County. *None in Lincoln County (clinic located in Sublette County). *We serve Sublette County, with exception of LaBarge elementary students. *LaBarge Seniors (Lincoln County) partake in our services--- Senior Center located in Sublette County. *Classes on how to achieve greater stability.</p>
Total	20 (55.5%) Responded (16 skipped)

Q. 15 What kind of assistance can High Country Behavioral Health provide to your organization so that you can better serve your clients? Medicare help, resource information, money and education are the kind of assistance that High Country Behavioral help can provide to providers.	
Responses * Medicare help. *Don't know what that is. /Not sure. (2)/ Not sure what is available - 4 *Resource information. *Money. *Education.	
Total	8 (22.2%) Responded (28 Skipped)

See **Appendix D2** showing a bar graph for Questions 1-15.

Table 12 reflects the ranking of needs of CSBG agencies and other human service agencies. Survey respondents were asked to number the most important services 10 to 1 starting with 10 as the most important and 1 as the least important.

TABLE 12	
Ranking of Needs by Providers	
Q. 16 Ranking of Needs by Provider Respondents - Most important needs as ranked by providers were #1 – Health, #2 – Housing, #3 – Self-Sufficiency, #4 Transportation and #5 – Emergency Services.	
Category – Human Service Need	Provider Respondent Points
Education	59
Emergency Services	77 (#5)
Employment and Training	69
Health	100 (#1)
Housing	95 (#2)
Income Management/Making Better Use of Available Resources	62
Linkages with Other Programs	46
Nutrition/Food	71
Self-Sufficiency	87 (#3)
Transportation	84 (#4)
Total	18 (50%) Responded (18 Skipped)

Graph 13 represents the ranking of the six most important needs of provider respondents:

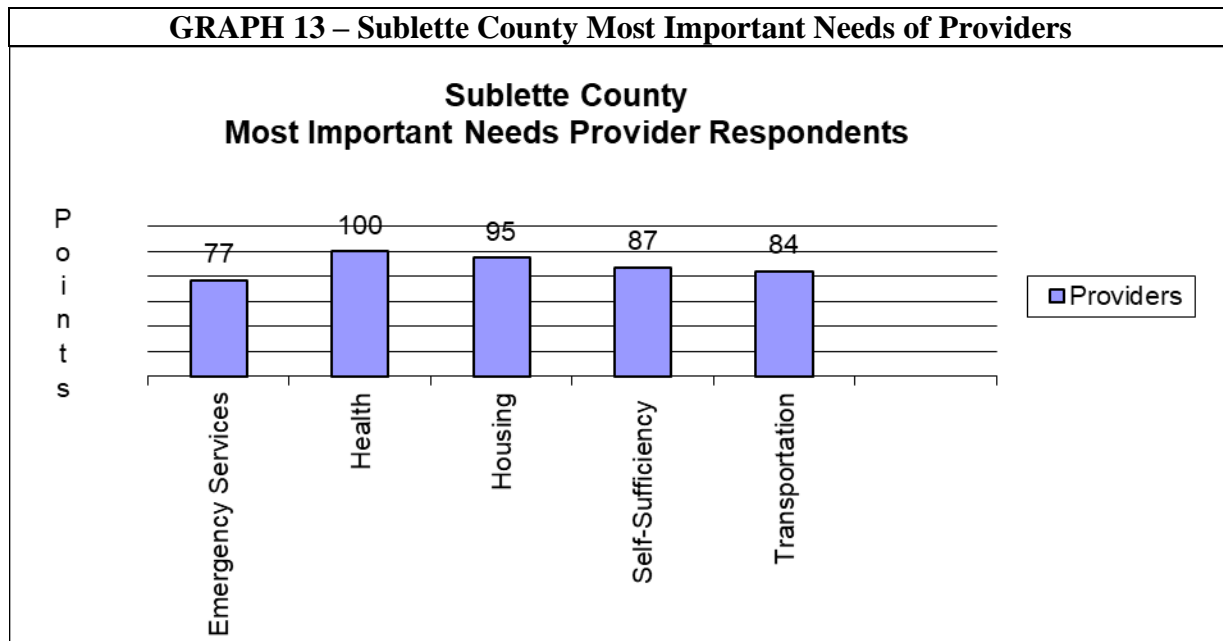


Table 14 reflects the second set of rankings that describe how well the human services needs are being met in the agency’s community. Respondents indicate whether they were good, fair, poor, or not at all.

TABLE 14				
“How Well Are Human Services Needs Being Met in Your Community?”				
Q. 17 “How Well Are Human Services Needs Being Met in Your Community?”				
Education was ranked “good.” Emergency assistance, linkages with other programs, making better use of available resources and health received a “fair” ranking by a majority of the agency respondents. Housing was ranked as “poor”.				
<i>Human Service Need</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Not at All</i>
Education	8	6	3	0
Emergency Assistance	3	13	1	0
Employment/ Training	2	10	4	0
Health	2	11	4	0
Housing	1	4	11	1
Linkages with Other Programs	2	13	2	0
Making Better Use of Available Resources/Income Management	2	12	3	0
Nutrition/Food	3	9	5	0
Self-Sufficiency	2	8	7	0
Transportation	0	9	7	1
Total	17 (47.2%) Responded (19 skipped)			

Question 18 indicates the ranking of health problems in the client respondent’s community the results are shown in **Table 15** below:

TABLE 15	
Provider Ranking of Health Problems in Community	
Q. 18 Ranking of Health Problems in Community. Providers ranked “Mental Health” as the #1 problem, “Alcohol Abuse” as the #2 problem, “Use of Illegal Drugs/Substance Abuse” as the #3 problem, “Tobacco Use” as the #4 problem, and “Suicide” as the #5 problem.	
Category – Health Problems	Number of Points
Alcohol Abuse	98 (#2)
COVID-19	18
Mental Health	103 (#1)
Obesity	53
Suicide	61 (#5)
Teen Pregnancy	31
Tobacco Use	69 (#4)
Use of Illegal Drugs/Substance Abuse	81 (#3)
Total	18 (50%) Responded (18 skipped)

Graph 16 shows the ranking of health problems in Sublette County by providers:

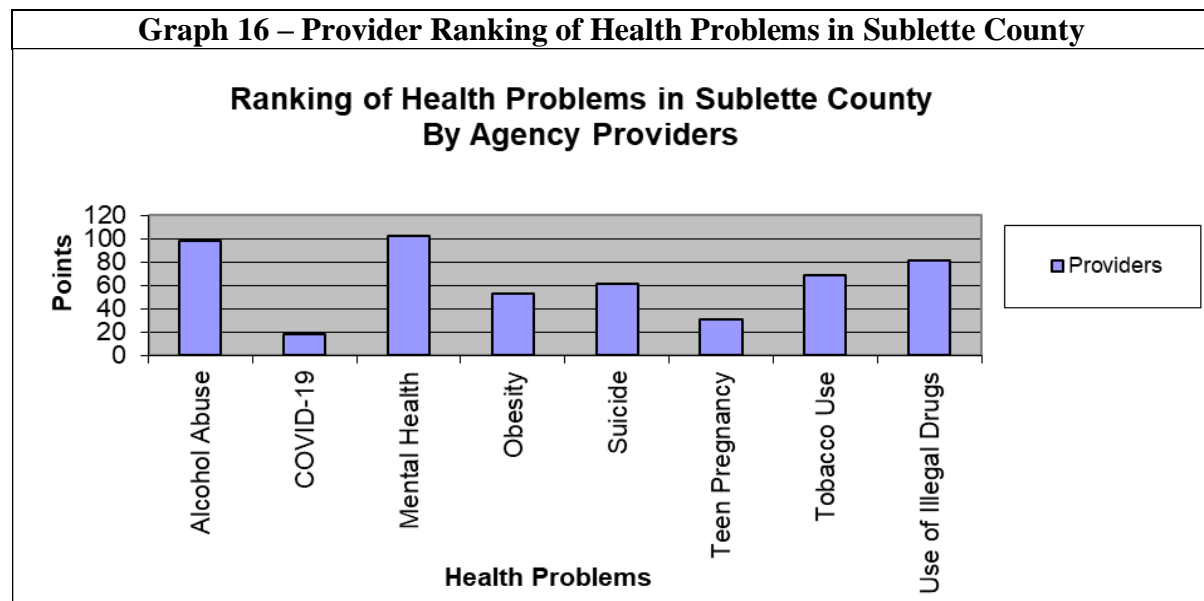


Table 17 reflects the fourth set of ranking questions related to how well the community meets the needs of helping low-income people to become more self-sufficient, improving the conditions in which low-income people lives are improved, providing low-income people with a voice in their community, partnerships are achieved among agencies so that low-income

people are helped and agencies are working together to solve the problems of low-income. The results are as follows:

TABLE 17				
Ranking, “How Well Does Your Community Meet the Needs Of . . .”				
Q. 19 “How well does your community meet the needs of . . .”: Respondents ranked “Helping low-income people become more self-sufficient” and “Improving the conditions in which low-income people lives are improved” as Fair. “Providing low-income people with a voice in their community” was ranked as poor.				
<i>Human Service Need</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Not at All</i>
Helping low-income people become more self-sufficient?	0	11	5	1
Improving the conditions in which low-income people lives are improved?	0	10	6	1
Providing low-income people with a voice in their community?	1	5	8	2
Partnerships are achieved among agencies so that low-income people are helped?	3	8	5	1
Agencies are working together to solve the problems of low-income?	4	8	4	1
Total	17 (47.2%) Responded (19 skipped)			

□ Ranking with greatest number

Table 18 continues the other survey responses of CSBG and other agency for questions 20-24 as follows:

TABLE 18 – Summary of Provider Responses	
Questions 20 - 24	
Q. 20 In the past year has the household income of the majority of your clients: The majority (47.1%) of provider respondents indicated that both the household income of agency clients decreased and stayed the same in the past year.	
<i>Category</i>	<i>Number of Providers</i>
Increased	1 (5.8%)
Decreased	8 (47.1%)
Stayed the Same	8 (47.1%)
Total	17 (47.2%) Responded (19 skipped)
Q. 21 What changes have the majority of your clients seen in the past year that affected how much money they have? The majority provider respondents indicated that it was due to the high cost of living (14) and serious chronic illness (9).	
<i>Category</i>	<i>Number of Providers</i>
Change in Marital Status	5
Death in Family	3
Domestic Violence	5
High Cost of Living	14

Promotion/Better paying job	1
Reduction of work hours	5
Retirement	2
Serious or chronic illness	9
Under-employed	4
Unemployed	5
Other	3 Responses: * Inflation. * Seniors on Social Security. *Cannot answer.
Total	21 (60%) Responded (14 skipped)
Q. 22 In the past year have your clients had difficulty meeting expenses? The majority of the provider respondents indicated their clients had difficulty meeting expenses. This is due to high rent, high food prices, and medical bills.	
Category	Number of Providers
No	1 (6.2%)
Yes	15 (93.8%) Responses: *Rent. – 4 *Inflation. -4 *Food. * Groceries and access to medical care are probably the most difficult pieces of this equation at present. * We had an increase in patients seeking help with medical expenses. /Paying for medications, medical bills. /Medical, dental, vision. - 2 * Not enough money to buy gas for vehicle, pay rent, buy food and clothes, necessities, and required repairs. / It appears many families are struggling to meet basic needs. Many families have moved away seeking better opportunities. - 2 *Gas. *Transportation. * Many clients are awaiting a disability designation, military benefits, and that type of thing, and they state that they are unable to meet their expenses while they wait for the benefits to be approved. *Cost of living increase is difficult sometimes on senior citizens. No comment. - 2
Total	16 (44.4%) Responded 20 skipped
Q. 23 What new services did your clients need in the past year? Provider respondents indicated Food Bank (10), Free or reduced-price lunch and low-income housing or renter's assistance were new services that their clients needed in the past year.	

Affordable Care Act health insurance subsidy	6
Education and literacy assistance	3
Employment training services	3
Child Care assistance	3
Equality Care, Kid Care or other insurance	5
Food Bank	10
Free or reduced-price lunch	8
LIEAP	6
Low-income housing or renter's assistance	7
Medicare, Medicaid or Medicaid Waiver	6
Mortgage Assistance	2
POWER	2
Senior Services	3
SNAP	4
Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)	5
WIC	5
VA military benefits	5
Youth Services	4
None	2
Other	1
	Responses: *None of these are "new" services. The vast majority of our clients need most of these services.
Total	15 (41.7%) Responded (21 skipped)
Q.24 Were the services? A majority (8 providers) indicated their clients had received the services.	
Category	Number of Providers
Received	8
Denied	4
Services Not Available	4
Total	14 (38.9%) Responded (22 skipped)

Table 19 reflects the fourth set of ranking questions related to how serious a problem is each of the following statements including affordable clothing/shoes, affordable food choices, affordable place to live, paying for utilities, safe place to live and affordable medical care. Respondents were to indicate whether they were a serious problem, minor problem or not a problem.

Table 19			
How Serious A Problem for Your Clients			
Q. 25 How serious a problem each of the following is for your clients? A majority of the respondents indicated that, affordable place to live, affordable medical care, affordable prescription drugs, affordable medical specialist and child care are serious problems. Affordable clothing/shoes is considered as a minor problem by the providers.			
<i>Specific Needs of Low-Income</i>	<i>Serious Problem</i>	<i>Minor Problem</i>	<i>Not a Problem</i>
Affordable Clothing/Shoes	1	11	2
Affordable Food Choices	9	5	1
Affordable Place to Live	13	3	0
Paying for Utilities	8	6	1
Safe Place to Live	2	7	4
Child Care	10	5	0
Affordable Medical Care	11	3	1
Affordable Dental	8	5	1
Affordable Vision Care	8	4	1
Affordable Prescription Drugs	11	2	2
Affordable Medical Specialist	11	4	1
Transportation, In-County	5	6	3
Transportation, Out-Of-County	9	3	3
Total	16 (44.4%) Responded (20 skipped)		

Table 20 continues the responses of the human service agencies for Questions 26-29.

TABLE 20	
Summary of Provider Responses Questions 26-29	
Q. 26. Do you know of any two or more community agencies providing the same service? A majority (68.8%) of the provider respondents indicated that there was no duplication of services.	
Category	Number of Providers
No	11 (68.8%)
Yes	5 (31.2%)
	Responses * Municipal and county government. *There are other community agencies that provide some of the same services that we do. For example, referrals, financial assistance, etc. *2 Senior Centers available in Sublette County. / *More than one senior center in Sublette County. - 2 *There are several preschools in Pinedale and Sublette County.
Total	16 (44.4%) Responded (20 skipped)

Q. 27 Who do you see as a vulnerable (at-risk) population in Sublette County and why?	
The vulnerable (at-risk) population includes elderly, children, poor, and Latino community – fear of deportation, cultural norms, and language barrier.	
<p>*Elderly and low-income - Living on a fixed budget w/inflation unable to afford as many high-quality food items. /Seniors, they are usually on a fixed income, and expenses seem to increase steadily. / Some senior citizens. - 3</p> <p>*Children. – 2</p> <p>*The poor. - 2</p> <p>*Adolescents in homes with alcoholics/addicts.</p> <p>* Youth and elderly- both need preventative and care</p> <p>*Single or separated or divorced mothers of babies/young children. They are afraid to push for child support. Hard to work and raise little kids.</p> <p>*Housing is our number one problem. Being sure people have a place to live that they can afford.</p> <p>*Young men and women. No services at all for them.</p> <p>*Low-income families with limited resources. /Low-income, uninsured.</p> <p>*Single moms.</p> <p>*People not speaking English. /Latino community- fear of deportation, cultural norms, language barrier.</p> <p>*Single- and double-income families with several young children. Some also caring for elderly parents. Not sure how these families are surviving right now with food and fuel/utility costs. We help out on school end as much as we can.</p>	
Total	15 (41.7%) Responded (21 skipped)
Q. 28 Are there any programs that would help low-income families in Sublette County that are currently not available? Provider respondents indicated that affordable housing, transportation, increased mental health services, and child care are programs that would help low-income families in Sublette County.	
<p>Responses</p> <p>*Transportation. /*Transportation needs are great. /Public transportation. - 3</p> <p>*Affordable housing. /Affordable HUD Housing. /Low-income housing – 3</p> <p>**Telehealth behavioral health. /*Mental Health services are a HUGE need right now, nationwide concerns, but we cannot meet the needs adequately, it doesn't feel like. - 2</p> <p>*Well, there are some good ones and so not so good ones</p> <p>*Child care + work while children are cared for nearby. /*Child care is an issue and access to affordable medical care can be a problem. -2</p> <p>*Don't know what services are available for families but we don't have those services in Sublette County.</p> <p>*Overeaters anonymous.</p> <p>*211 translation.</p> <p>*Sources of strength for suicide prevention.</p> <p>*The number of people who are uninsured or underinsured for health is a heavy burden. They often can't afford medical care, but make too much to qualify for assistance. There are many who fall through the cracks.</p> <p>*Good utilization of food banks/closets, but more frequent might be helpful.</p> <p>*Not sure.</p>	
Total	10 (27.8%) Responded (26 skipped)
Q. 29 What is the greatest concern that you have regarding your clients and their families? Provider respondents indicated affordable housing, affordable medical care, inflation and the economy, and mental health are the greatest concerns.	

*Housing affordability. /Affordable and available housing/Housing. – 4	
*Affordable medical care. /Medical Care - 3	
*Inflation. / The economy is crushing the people who are just getting by in Lincoln and Sublette Counties. – 2	
*Mental health. - 2	
*Seeking medical screening with preventative care.	
*Transportation.	
*Affordable food.	
*Education to help people learn to manage their money and households are both great concerns in our area.	
*Child care.	
*Unhealthy nutrition	
*Alcohol use	
*Tobacco use,	
*Sedentary lifestyle	
*Lack of medical insurance and/or medication coverage	
Access to medical care. Access to food, warm homes, and mental health services.	
*Because BOCES serves anyone in the district without need based or income requirements, it is difficult to assess the extent to which our clientele have needs.	
*I am searching for an outreach to make sure the senior citizens in our area are fed, clothed and in a healthy environment. It's not the seniors I see daily it's the ones I know are out there that have the need I just cannot reach them.	
*We have a huge waitlist to get kiddos into child care. We are maxed to our capacity.	
*The disintegration of our democracy.	
Total	15 (41.7%) Responded (21 skipped)

Survey Monkey graphs and raw data for the human service agency surveys are found in **Appendix D2**.

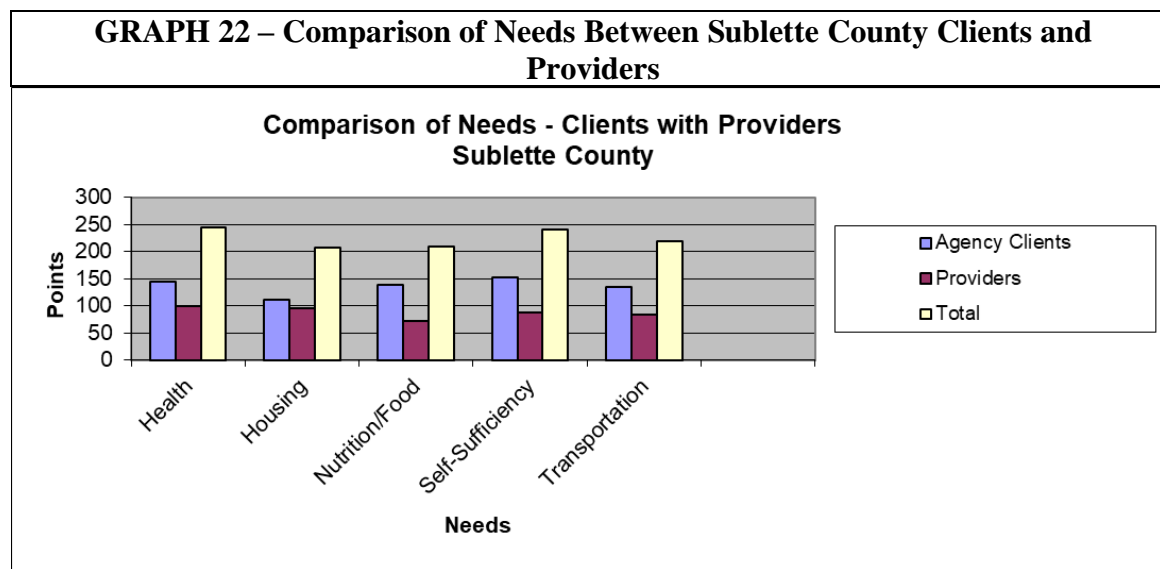
6. Comparison of Needs between Low-Income Clients and Providers

Table 21 is a comparison of the ranking of needs for the between the CSBG agency clients and the human service agencies that shows health services, self-sufficiency, transportation, nutrition/food, and housing are the most important needs:

Need	Agency Low Income Clients	Agencies Serving Low Income	Total Points
Education	124	59	183
Emergency Services	104	77 (#5)	181
Employment and Training	111	69	180
Health	145 (#2)	100 (#1)	245 (#1)
Housing	111	95 (#2)	206 (#5)

Linkages with Other Programs	133 (#5)	62	195
Income Management	128	46	174
Nutrition/Food	138 (#3)	71	209 (#4)
Self-Sufficiency	153 (#1)	87 (#3)	240 (#2)
Transportation	135 (#4)	84 (#4)	219 (#3)

Graph 22 is a representation of the six highest ranked needs between the two populations, i.e., agency clients (blue bar), and agencies serving the low income (burgundy bar):



B. Community Meetings

Community meetings were held in two communities in Marbleton and Pinedale on November 10, 2022 and all Sublette County ZOOM meeting on November 15, 2022. **Notices and advertisements of these meetings are found in Appendix F.** Both focus groups were provided with an introduction to the purpose of the Community Needs Assessment described as follows:

“High Country Behavioral Health receives funds from the State Department of Health. High Country Behavioral Health asks non-profit, state and county agencies for referrals of clients who need assistance. Contacts are then made to determine eligibility of the program. Funds are distributed accordingly to the individual needs. The Board oversees the awards to individuals and monitors the use of the funds according to the Community Action Plan submitted to the state.

Every county in the state receives (CSBG) Community Services Block Grant funds. The purpose of the funds is to serve the low income needs of a community. A requirement of the Block Grant program is to complete a Community Needs Assessment. This must be done every three (3) years.

There are four components to the community needs assessment process – surveys, community meetings, statistical and demographic data, and a Dialogue on Poverty.

Client surveys were sent to agencies that serve low-income populations so they could distribute them to clients to complete and return. There are two types of agencies that received surveys- those that are receiving CSBG funds and those agencies that serve the low income but do not receive any CSBG funds. Agencies also were invited to complete provider surveys.

The Board takes results and information from this community needs assessment and uses it to set priorities for funding. This is called a Community Action Plan. The needs assessment report from this process will be given to the Tripartite Board at a Dialogue on Poverty on Monday, December 19, 2022.”

1. COMMUNITY MEETING Marbleton Town Hall, 10700 Hwy. 189, Marbleton WY, 10:00AM., Thursday, November 10, 2022. Nine (9) participants attended the meeting.

1.) Introduce yourself with your name and a human service agency in your community that you are familiar with or currently available to offset the creation or impacts of poverty in the community.

Melissa Mitchell, Social Worker, Sublette County School District#9 – Human services agencies in our community are the Food Pantry, Green Pastures, and mental health grant for counseling services. Most counseling services are in Pinedale. In Big Piney/Marbleton there is a 1-2 month waiting list with High Country Behavioral Health. Teton Behavioral Health has a 1-2 day wait. The Department of Family Services is located in Pinedale. They will come to Marbleton/Big Piney if you call. Their response is pretty good. The school district provides food, clothing, mental health services, medical care, and housing from donations that are obtained from community members. The School District does a screening for homelessness and connects these families with services.

Shannon, Town Clerk of Marbleton – Work very closely with the food pantry. The Food Pantry has 2 distributions/month, the second Tuesday evening for regular distribution and on the 4th Wednesday the mobile food truck comes. The food truck is a state-wide program. Boy Scouts deliver a lot of firewood for heat. During the pandemic we were delivering meals to homes. Community members contribute to the needs of the low-income people out of love of their heart.

Sam Bixler, Economic development coordinator and municipal judge for Marbleton. The Town of Marbleton contributes \$9,000/year for the Child Development Center. Pre-Covid, 35 families were served by the Food Pantry once/month. Now 70 families are served twice a month. To give an indicator of how the economic downturn has affected the Marbleton/Big Piney communities, 65 boxes were given to families by the Food Bank during the storm on Tuesday evening. The food truck is from out of community. At its peak there were 72 drill rigs in the county and now we are down to 2. Currently there are 448 children, K-12 in the school district. The school district lost 200 children in the last 10 years. This effects school funding and provides budgeting issues for the school district. During Covid there was free and reduced lunch, but now the students have to qualify. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of kids qualify for free and reduced lunch. The need is likely more than that because families are too proud to apply for free and reduced lunch.

Mayor Jim Robinson of the Town of Marbleton - The Sheriff Department takes kids to do community service for those that get in trouble. The Town of Marbleton works with community businesses to hire – 13 – 17 years old. The Town of Marbleton takes donations from residents for those folks that can't pay water or sewer bill, MESA Therapeutic Horsemanship and Boy and Girl Scouts. The Boy Scouts bring firewood to the community members who can't afford to pay for heat. Donated to SAFV. The Town of Marbleton Clerk sends out notices to residents to express the need for specific donations to someone in the community that needs help. Sometimes the employees step up to pay the bills of other residents. Recently, a community member had a \$9,000 child care bill and the town employees contributed to that. If people get snowed in for a few days, the Town of Marbleton staff will check on them. Recently, 100 people attended a free community meal. We know that some low-income folks came because it was a free meal and they were food insecure.

We've had it good for a long time but things are different now. It was interesting to note that in a candidate forum for Sublette County officials, 13 out of 16 candidates stood up and said we don't have an issue with poverty in Sublette County. They live in their own bubble. They are not aware of the poverty issues in the County.

Carie James – Senior Center – The Senior Center uses the AGNES form to obtain information and income level of the seniors. This form is filled out by the seniors who use the Senior Center. This is the only way to know if the needy are out there. The people coming to the Center are not poverty level. The seniors that are in poverty are not coming in. We have resources that we can give to them. Can't believe the amount of money that is available to the seniors to help them but they do not take advantage of it.

Local residents also provide donations for seniors. When they give too much, we risk losing money from the state as we are not using the state's resources. I am working really hard on how to manage the resources. We are lacking in-home services. Friends are helping friends. Because of state cuts in in-home services, we are going to exhaust kind hearts and generous people. We really need to utilize resources better. We don't have CNA's. We don't have the capacity to have an assisted living facility. Our program provides cinnamon rolls on Monday, lunches on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and continental breakfast on Fridays. We also have home-delivered meals and family style meals served curbside so that seniors can take meals home with them if they need them.

Dezi Saathoff – SAFV Task Force. We provide housing for women and their children who have domestic violence issues. Recently we provided housing for a woman with 3 kids. We utilize the E-Wrap and transitional housing fund from Department of Family Services to provide these services. The Food Basket partners with us. We use resources from other programs as well including homeless funds. Our clients are escaping domestic violence. Recently we had a client that arrived in Pinedale to escape domestic violence from Idaho. People do come here thinking Wyoming has the same state provided services as the state they come from but discover that Wyoming does not provide the same services. Then they are stuck because they do not have resources to move again.

Tonia Hoffman – School Nurse, Sublette County School District#9. Others have listed most of the services but many services are not available. The big part of the problem is acknowledgement. We care for one another. 13 out of 16 candidates said poverty wasn't a problem. They don't know what the situation of poverty is. Thirty (30%) of population is underinsured or uninsured. Thirty (30%) percent of students fall through the cracks for medical and dental care. We have a dentist one day a week. – Diamond G Dental out of Kemmerer.

Norma Clements – School Counselor at Sublette County School District#9. We have B.O.C.E.S. outreach in the building that is provided by Western Wyoming Community College. Folks can obtain their GED. There are opportunities for local scholarships and FAFSA to help students to get to college. Adults and youth are also served by the federal program, TRIO. TRIO is out of Riverton. TRIO serves ten communities and has been available in Sublette County the last two years.

2.) Were there any services that you or your family/clients needed but the services weren't available? In other words what are the most important gaps in services?

Transportation is a gap. We have to move people out of the area just to obtain needed medical services. Getting people to transportation out of area is a service thought not to be available. The Senior Center Director Carie James indicated that the Senior Center can provide transportation out-of-town of a 100-mile radius even to non-seniors. This is provided through a grant.

Child Care – Currently there is the Children's Learning Center, Alphabet Child Care, and the school.

Low-income housing – We have senior housing and one Income-adjusted apartment building, Pinewood Apts. There is not enough low-income housing in Marbleton/Big Piney. There is some in Pinedale.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling services. What we need is ten times what we currently have. It takes 90 days to get an evaluation. Not sure if there are any substance abuse support groups locally.

In-home services for hospice and other help. St. John's of Jackson tries but it is very limited. They are in the process of training emergency management personnel for some related services.

Parenting class. Currently there is no court-ordered parenting class. The School District is looking at providing this service.

3.) *What would you like your community to work on for families to become self-sufficient?*

Transportation.

The mayor wants to know what they can do to help pay for children's lunch for those that need it as that seems to be a doable endeavor.

Those in poverty need to have hope. They don't know about the resources available.

2. COMMUNITY MEETING – St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Lower Level, 524 W. Pine St., Pinedale WY 12:45PM. Nineteen (19) participants attended the meeting.

1.) *Introduce yourself with your name and a human service agency in your community that you are familiar with or currently available to offset the creation or impacts of poverty in the community.*

Mandy, SAFV domestic abuse – provides a shelter program, financial empowerment for clients, life skills classes and legal consultation. The agency connects with LIEAP resources for utilities and for other services. The number of clients has substantially increased. In July, 2022 we served 76 people, which has doubled in the past year. Some of these clients have relocated to Pinedale but there is no homeless shelter. We have done a lot of relocation of clients and have relocated some families to Cheyenne. We have many resources at our disposal.

Renee – Green River Health Care Foundation provides clinic with different funds for travel funds, including gas and hotel costs. Also use funds for antibiotics. They will also pay for replacement pieces for medical equipment.

Sarah – Pinedale Community Food. Provides food and clothing. They are serving a lower number of people by 25%. Don't know for sure but think some have left the area.

Renae – There is no affordable housing available.

Sheena – Bridges out of Poverty. Provide classes to help people get out of poverty. Would like to expand in Big Piney. Have had a few graduates. Get grants from many resources. Community resource coordinator and hooks up with Unites Us that provides referrals. United Us is a software program that builds coordinated care networks of health and social service providers.

Kaidi – BOCES. Partners with Western Wyoming Community College to do ESL, and workforce classes. BOCES will pay \$1,000/person. BOCES has budgeted \$15,000 for scholarships.

We are also partnering with the hospital for EMT training and re-certification. This has been a pretty successful partnership.

BOCES also offers the 1-week Pinedale Wyrkshop which provides access to the best in-class technical tools, including a 3-D printer so that youth and adults can take their creative project to the next level. There are instructors and community volunteers. The use of that room is at a minimum fee.

Children who are on free and reduced lunch in the school district can participate in the afterschool program free.

We also do a grant with Pinedale Preschool for back packs so that every kindergartener gets a backpack, equipped with school supplies.

Pregnancy Resource Center has closed. They provided diapers, etc. Now have to refer folks to Jackson and Rock Springs.

Norman – School District #1. Provides free and reduced lunches. Fifteen percent (15%) of families are on free and reduced lunches. Families are reluctant to apply even though they fall within the income guidelines. Currently the school district is \$7,000 in the hole on the lunch program. There are seven (7) recorded kids that do not have fixed permanent housing – they are couch surfers. The school district sponsors a coat drive. The principals package coats that they receive.

Megan – Typical rent for a home is up from \$1,000 to \$2,000. It is nearly impossible to find affordable housing.

Melinda - Episcopal church. We provide a short-term housing opportunity by placing people in the church basement or at hotel. There are funds available to help pay bills, rent, school clothes, vehicle insurance. Have been getting grants for COVID relief from the State Episcopal Church for medical bills and mental health services. Manage Sublette County mental health fund.

Boulder Roll Poker Run is a fundraiser for suicide awareness and prevention primarily sponsored by motorcyclists and veterans. We sponsor several fundraising events out of the

year. Help to get information on suicide prevention.

Schools asked if we can help with kids who didn't want to tell parents that they are having mental health issues. The Church of Resurrection and other churches sponsor a summer lunch program that provide lunches for kids and families for free for 10 weeks during the summer. It has significantly increased as 1000 meals have been served.

The Pinedale Community Church does the community BAK PAK program.

2.) *Were there any services that you or your family/clients needed but the services weren't available? In other words what were the gaps in services?*

- Pregnancy Resource Center closed this year. They provided diapers and other needed items and services to low-income families. They also coordinated with Sublette County Public Health on the car seat program. We need an agency to provide those services.
- Housing
- Moving cost
- Medical Assistance – People come from other states and they need assistance for medical services. Many can't afford the medication.
- We need to have Medicaid expansion.
- We need to provide assistance for people who are homeless. There is no homeless shelter in Pinedale. The only option is to move them onto somewhere else. We need to assure that we have a place for them to go. This situation is very random as there is not structure in place. If it isn't there, what do you do. Someplace to set aside. Rock Springs doesn't have any place. Jackson does have a homeless shelter but those that go there are required to work. And if they don't get a job or go to work, they will not be let in. It's a circle and they are right back to where they started from. We buy a lot of bus tickets from Rock Springs to Salt Lake City so that they can go to the homeless shelter. We have to get them to Rock Springs to the bus.
- Mental Health – Currently there is a 3-month wait at High Country Behavioral Health. Telehealth at High Country Behavioral Health is 2-3 weeks. Teton Behavioral Therapy is 2 days and an immediate appointment for an emergency but they don't do special rates and sliding scale. They will get billed.

3.) *Who in the community is most affected by poverty?*

- Retail workers
- Service workers
- Elderly on a fixed income. Inflation is having a serious effect on them. We get more reports that they won't be able to put gas in their car or can't afford their medication. They eat one meal/day from the Senior Center and divide it into thirds so that they have 3 meals or they share it with others who they live with. Can't afford to live here.
- Migrant or transitory people
- Single moms – If they get a full-time job at \$15.00, they can't get the child care subsidy and can't get food stamps because they make too much money.

4.) *What would you like your community to work on for families to become self-sufficient?*

Affordable housing – The Town of Pinedale has a committee that is working to get affordable housing. It is Not HUD as there are too many restrictions. It is USDA and a private investor. Land has been designated. It's a drop in the bucket. Phase I project will accommodate about 25-30 units. Adopt short-term rentals. They are making slow progress. They had an investment property identified to take care of housing but the owner received a cash offer that was \$100,000 over the property value, so that is not available now.

Education about poverty in the community. People don't realize that there is poverty. This is a gap.

5.) *Is there anything else that you came to this meeting that you wanted to say and you haven't had a chance to say it?*

Pinedale is transitioning into a retirement community. There is a shift. Pinedale is attractive to snowbirds. Twenty-five percent (25%) of housing is transitional. Pinedale is not boxed in – private development and other partnerships, i.e., USDA can solve this. There is hope.

Education is needed. Bridges of poverty tries to get the word out. Elected officials are invited to lunch but they don't reply and recognize that there is a problem.

Big Piney is starving to death. LaBarge has extreme poverty.

3. COMMUNITY MEETING – All Sublette County ZOOM meeting, Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 6:30PM.

While the ZOOM meeting occurred only Chereon Hoopes, CSBG Grant Manager for Sublette and Lincoln Counties participated. No discussion occurred and no notes were taken.

C. Quantitative Data

A number of key documents were scanned and key information and is reported in this needs assessment to assist High Country Behavioral Health in determining a priority of needs. Over forty local, state, regional and federal data resources were scanned for quantitative data on the low income of Sublette County including:

- Amount of family income required for poverty guidelines
- Population by age and poverty
- Population and poverty by gender
- Population and poverty by race and ethnicity
- Cities and towns
- Income/wages
- Median household income for Sublette County communities
- Number of households by income

Poverty
 Employment and unemployment
 Food Insecurity
 Housing
 Cost of living
 Community Service Block Grant poverty factors
 General health
 Health care access
 Birth rates
 Teen births
 Maternal and infant health
 Mental health
 Tobacco use
 Obesity
 Divorce rates
 Suicide rates
 COVID-19
 Disabilities
 Population and poverty by families
 Free and reduced lunch rates
 District graduation rates
 Child care

The data from these various sources follows in this section.

1.) Amount of Family Income to Meet Poverty Guidelines

Table 23 reflects the amount of family income for the Sublette County families in poverty. This is based on the 2022 Community Services Block Grant Poverty Guidelines:

TABLE 23				
AMOUNT OF FAMILY INCOME TO MEET POVERTY GUIDELINES				
Number of Persons in Family	Up to 50% of CSBG Poverty Guidelines	100% CSBG Poverty Guidelines	125% CSBG Poverty Guidelines	200% CSBG Poverty Guidelines
1	\$6,795	\$13,590	\$16,988	\$27,180
2	\$9,155	\$18,310	\$22,888	\$36,620
3	\$11,515	\$23,030	\$28,788	\$46,060
4	\$13,875	\$27,750	\$34,688	\$55,500
5	\$16,235	\$32,470	\$40,588	\$64,940
6	\$18,595	\$37,190	\$46,488	\$74,380
7	\$20,955	\$41,910	\$52,388	\$83,820
8	\$23,315	\$46,630	\$58,288	\$93,260
Each additional	\$ 2,360	\$ 4,720	\$5,900	\$9,440

Source: 2022 Poverty Guidelines. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

2.) Sublette County Demographics and Poverty Profile

Population and Poverty by Age Groups

The 2021 estimated population of Sublette County according to the U.S. Census Bureau was 8,697 and the estimated 2018 population was 9,813 representing a population decrease of 1,116 people or a -11.3% decrease in population. During this same time period the State of Wyoming had a -.04% decrease in population.

The largest age category by number is the 65 to 74 years old with 1,217 people and the 35 to 44 years old with 1,172 people. The greatest decrease occurred in the 85 years and older with a 65.5% decrease and the 0-4 years old with a 30% decrease. The greatest increase occurred in the 65-74 years old category with a 2.8% increase and the 75-84 years old with a 2.3% increase.

Eight hundred thirty-three (833) people or 8.5% of the population live in poverty in Sublette County. The largest population in poverty are the 5-17 years old with 290 youth or 16.8% of this population and the 18-34 years old with 306 adults or 16.6% of this population. The smallest population in poverty are the 65 years and over with 56 adults or 3% of this population.

Following are the age groups by population from 2018 to 2021 and Poverty Status Five Year Estimate American Community Survey as shown in **Table 24** below:

TABLE 24				
Sublette County Population Comparison between 2018 – 2021 and Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age Groups 2020 Five Year ACS				
Sublette County Age Groups	2018 Estimate	July 1, 2021 Estimate	Difference Between 2018 to 2021	Poverty Status 2020 Five Year Estimate ACS (American Community Survey)
0 to 4	532	372	-160 (-30%)	
Under 5 years old in poverty				38 (7% of total age group population)
5 to 9	625	501	-124 (-19.8%)	
10 to 14	682	614	-68 (-9.9%)	
15 to 19	553	511	-42 (-7.5%)	
5 to 17 years old in poverty				290 (16.8% of total age group population)
20 to 24	405	378	-27 (-6.6%)	
25 to 34	1,121	902	-219 (-19.5%)	
18 to 34 years old				306 (16.6% of total age group population)
35 to 44	1,297	1,172	-125 (-9.6%)	
45 to 54	1,254	1,107	-147 (-11.7%)	
55 to 59	708	556	-152 (-21.4%)	
60 to 64	725	661	-64 (-8.8%)	

35 to 64 years old				145 (3.7% of total age group population)
65 to 74	1,183	1,217	+34 (+2.8%)	
75 to 84	548	561	+13 (+2.3%)	
85 years and older	421	145	-276 (-65.5%)	
65 years old and over in poverty				56 (3% of total age group population)
TOTAL	9,813	8,697	-1,116 (-11.3%)	835 (8.5% poverty rate of total population)

Represents the largest number of people in a particular age bracket.

Sources:

- 1.) Wyoming Department of Administration Economic Analysis Division. County Population by Age, Sex, Race & Hispanic for Wyoming Counties, April 1, 2020 – July 1, 2021.
- 2.) Wyoming Department of Administration Economic Analysis Division. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Age, Sex, Race & Hispanic for Wyoming Counties, April 1, 2010-July 1, 2015
- 3.) U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, 2016-2020. American Community Survey 2020, 5-Year Estimates, Sublette County, Wyoming

Population and Poverty by Gender

Table 25 indicates that males decreased by 604 (-11.4%) and females decreased by 512 (-11.3%) from 2018 to 2021. In 2021 there were 4,691 (53.9%) males and 4,006 females (46%) females. **Of the male population, 424 (7.6%) live in poverty and of the female population, 411 (9.5%) live in poverty.** See **Table 25** below:

Sublette County Population by Gender Comparison of 2018 to 2021 and Poverty Status by Gender 2020 Five Year Estimate				
Sublette County Gender Groups	2018 Estimates	2021 Estimates	Difference from 2018 to 2021	Poverty Status 2020 Five Year Estimate ACS (American Community Survey)
Male	5,295	4,691	-604 (-11.4%)	424 (7.6%)
Female	4,518	4,006	-512 (-11.3%)	411 (9.5%)
TOTAL	9,813	8,697	-1,116 (-11.3%)	835 (8.5%)

Sources:

- 1.) Wyoming Department of Administration Economic Analysis Division. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Age, Sex, Race & Hispanic for Wyoming Counties, April 1, 2010 – July 1, 2018.
- 2.) Wyoming Department of Administration Economic Analysis Division. County Population by Age, Sex, Race & Hispanic for Wyoming Counties, April 1, 2020 – July 1, 2021.
- 3.) U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, 2016-2020. American Community Survey 2020, 5-Year Estimates, Sublette County, Wyoming

Population by Cities and Towns in Sublette County

There was an increase of population from 2018 to 2021 in the Town of Pinedale with an increase of 384 people or a 20.4% increase. The largest decrease of population in a town in Sublette County from 2018 to 2021 was the Town of Big Piney with a decrease of 151 people (-28.8%) and the Town of Marbleton with a decrease of 301 people (-27%). See **Table 26** below:

TABLE 26			
Population of Cities and Towns in Sublette County			
Comparison of 2018 to 2021			
<i>Town City in Sublette County</i>	<i>Population 2018</i>	<i>Population Estimates 2021</i>	<i>Difference in Population from 2018 to 2021</i>
Town of Big Piney	524	373	-151 (-28.8%)
Town of Marbleton	1,111	810	-301 (-27%)
Town of Pinedale	1,878	2,262	+384 (20.4%)
Balance of Sublette County	6,300	5,252	-1,048 (-16.6%)
Total	9,813	8697	-1116 (-11.3%)

□ Represents the largest decrease by number of a town or city in Sublette County.

Source:

1. Wyoming Department of Administration Economic Analysis Division. Wyoming Incorporated Place Population Estimates, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018.
2. Wyoming Department of Administration Economic Analysis Division. Wyoming Incorporated Place Population Estimates, April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021.

Population and Poverty by Race/Ethnicity

The White Alone race showed the greatest amount of people in Sublette County. Of races, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander showed an increase of 6 people or 150% increase. White Alone showed a decrease of 1,159 people or -12.3% decrease. The Hispanic or Latino ethnicity population showed a decrease of 97 people or -13.2% decrease. During the same time period White Alone Not-Hispanic or Latino race showed a decrease of -1,403 people or -15.4% decrease.

The White Alone race population showed the greatest number of people in poverty with 779 people (8.2%) in poverty. The Black or African American alone race and Asian alone showed the greatest percentage of people in poverty with both categories having 1 person or 100% in poverty. The White Alone Not Hispanic or Latino ethnicity has the greatest number of people living in poverty with 596 (6.8%) while the Hispanic or Latino ethnicity has the greatest percentage of people living in poverty with 237 people or 32.7% in poverty.

Table 27 is a comparison of racial makeup and poverty of Sublette County from 2018 to 2021:

TABLE 27				
Sublette County Population by Race and Ethnicity 2018 to 2021 and Poverty by Race and Ethnicity 2020 Five Year Estimate				
Race	2018	2021	Difference in Race and Ethnicity between 2018 to 2021	Poverty Status 2020 Five Year Estimate ACS (American Community Survey)
White Alone	9390	8231	-1,159 (-12.3%)	779 (8.2%)
Black or African American Alone	88	83	-5 (-5.6%)	1 (100%)
American Indian/Alaska Native Alone	117	126	+9 (+7.6%)	0 (0%)
Asian alone	72	72	0 (0%)	1 (100%)
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders	4	10	+6 (+150%)	0 (0%)
Two or more races	142	175	+33 (+23.2%)	54 (12.9%)
Ethnicity				
Hispanic or Latino	732	635	-97 (-13.2%)	237 (32.7%)
White Alone Not Hispanic or Latino	9,081	7,678	-1,403 (-15.4%)	596 (6.8%)

Sources:

- 1.) Wyoming Department of Administration Economic Analysis Division. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Age, Sex, Race & Hispanic for Wyoming Counties, April 1, 2010 – July 1, 2018.
- 2.) Wyoming Department of Administration Economic Analysis Division. County Population by Age, Sex, Race & Hispanic for Wyoming Counties, April 1, 2020 – July 1, 2021.
- 3.) U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, 2016-2020. American Community Survey 2020, 5-Year Estimates, Sublette County, Wyoming.

Income/Wages

According to the US Census Bureau the estimated Median Household Income for Sublette County 2021 was **\$78,665** in comparison to Wyoming's Median Household Income of **\$65,304**. Median household income is the middle number present in a set of data when the incomes of all households are arranged in an order of highest to lowest level. The Town of Pinedale has the highest median household income and the Town of Big Piney has the lowest median household income in Sublette County.

Table 28 shows the Median Household Incomes for the communities in Sublette County:

Median Household Income for Communities in Sublette County		
Town or City in Sublette County Wyoming	2020-2021 Median Household Income	Percent of State of WY Median Household Income (\$65,304)
Town of Big Piney	\$52,813	80.8%
Town of Marbleton	\$65,417	100.1%
Town of Pinedale	\$86,447	132.3%
All of Sublette County	\$78,655 (2021)	120.4%

The Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages is showing that the average weekly wages in Sublette County decreased from \$1,093 in 2018 to \$1,052 in 2020 that represents a 3.7% decrease.

An article published by the Jackson Hole News and Guide dated October 12, 2022 displayed a map of Wyoming counties from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, reflecting what the median Wyoming woman makes, on the dollar, compared to the median man. There was a **41cents wage gap for women as compared to men** in Sublette County Wyoming. In 2021 Wyoming ranked last in the nation for the wage gap between men and women paying women an average of 35 cents less for every dollar that was paid compared to that of a male counterpart.

Headwater Economics states that the 1,462 service-providing workers were paid an average of \$40,804. Of this amount, there were 305 leisure and hospitality workers making an average annual wage of \$20,809 (49.2% below the average). Service providing employees are typically female workers. Based on the disparity of wages between men and women, a female worker would get \$.41 less/hour or an hourly wage of \$9.59/hr. or \$19,956.00 annually.

Sources:

- 1.) Jackson Hole News and Guide, October 12, 2022. "When it comes to paying men and women equally, Wyoming's at the bottom. But Teton County's at the top.
- 2.) Wyoming Demographics by Cubit. <https://www.wyoming-demographics.com/pinedale-demographics>
- 3.) Wyoming Demographics by Cubit. <https://www.wyoming-demographics.com/bigpiney-demographics>
- 4.) Wyoming Demographics by Cubit. <https://www.wyoming-demographics.com/marbleton-demographics>
- 5.) U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts, Wyoming, July 1, 2021. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/WY>
- 6.) Wyoming and County Profiles 2021, Sublette County. http://eadiv.state.wy.us/demog_data/County_Profile.html
- 7.) Wyoming Housing Database Partnership March 7, 2022, p. 35, Table II. 18.31 Average Weekly Wages, Sublette County, BLS QCEW Data, 2002-2020. Demographics, County Summaries, December 2021, Sublette County.
- 8.) Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Research and Planning Section, October 2018. A Study of the Disparity in Wages and Benefits between Men and Women in Wyoming; Update 2018.
- 9.) "The narrowing, but persistent, gender gap in pay," by Nikki Graf, Anna Brown and Eleen Patten. Pew Research Center, Fact Tank News in the Numbers, March 22, 2019.
- 10.) Headwaters Economics, Economic Profile System – Human Dimension Toolkit (June 22, 2022). A Profile of Socioeconomic Trends, Sublette County Wyoming, part 24 and 30.
- 11.) Wyoming News Now, March 1, 2021. "Gender Gap Pay finds in Wyoming."

Households by Income

There are 3,529 households* in Sublette County. **Table 29** reflects the largest number (647) of households in Sublette County earn \$75,000-\$99,999. There are 1,264 households that earn between \$100,000 - \$200,000 or more. This is far greater than the income of the Sublette CSBG clients that consists of an average family of 1 with income of 0-\$6,795 (up to 50% of poverty level). (See **Table 23 Amount of Family Income for Poverty Guidelines.**) There are 177 or 5% of all households that earn under \$15,000.

TABLE 29		
Number of Households by Income in Sublette County 2021		
Income	2021	Percentage of Total in Sublette County
Less than \$10,000	15	.4%
\$10,000-\$14,999	162	4.6%
\$15,000 – \$24,999	277	7.8%
\$25,000 – \$34,999	423	2%
\$35,000- \$49,999	279	7.9%
\$50,000-\$74,999	462	13.1%
\$75,000-\$99,999	647	18.3%
\$100,000-\$149,999	508	14.4%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	400	11.3%
\$200,000 or more	356	10.1
Total	3,529	100%

□ Represents the largest category of households by income.

**A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements. (People not living in households are classified as living in group quarters.) Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.*

Source: Wyoming and County Profiles 2021, Sublette County.

http://eadiv.state.wy.us/demog_data/County_Profile.html

Poverty

The U.S. Census Bureau indicates that 835 (8.5%) of the people in Sublette County are in poverty. Nearly seven percent (7%) of those who live in poverty or 38 children under the age of 5 live in poverty. Nearly thirty-five percent (34.7%) of those who live in poverty or 290 youth ages 5 to 17 live in poverty. Fifty-four percent (54%) of those who live in poverty or 451 adults 18 to 64 live in poverty. Nearly eight percent (7.7%) or 56 seniors, of those who live in poverty are 65 or older live in poverty.

According to the State of Wyoming Department of Health, Community and Rural Health there are 701 persons (1.3% of statewide low-income population) reporting living below the poverty level in Sublette County. Not counted in these figures are the working poor who generally do not qualify for benefits, but live paycheck to paycheck in less than good conditions. This almost invisible population makes painful financial choices every month; medicine or food? Is it gas for the car or shoes for the child? Any unforeseen problem such as illness, their car breaking down or other everyday setbacks, places the working poor in crisis mode. Growth in the ranks of poor youth in poor families over the past few decades has not been due to an increase in the number of welfare-dependent families; rather, it is because the ranks of the working poor have been growing.

Sources:

- 1.) U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, 2016-2020. American Community Survey 2020, 5-Year Estimates, Sublette County, Wyoming.
- 2.) Wyoming Department of Health, FFY 2022 CSBG Allocations.

Employment

According to the Wyoming Department of Employment, following are the statistics related to Sublette County:

- Sublette County's labor force, defined as the number of people working or actively seeking work decreased by 93 persons to 3,966 (September 2022) from 4,059 (September 2021).
- Employment decreased by 56 persons to 3,833 (September 2022) from 3,889 (September 2021.)
- Unemployed numbers decreased by 37 persons to 133 (September 2022) from 170 (September 2021.)
- Unemployment rate decreased by .8% from 4.3% (September 2021) to 3.4% in September 2022. This is .3% of a percent higher than the State of Wyoming unemployment rate of 3.1% (September 2022).

Source: Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Research and Planning, October 24, 2022. Wyoming Unemployment Rises to 3.3% in September 2022.

Food Insecurity

During the Dialogue on Poverty held in Marbleton on November 10, 2022, it was indicated that pre-Covid, thirty-five (35) families were served by the Food Pantry once/month. Now seventy (70) families are served twice a month. This represents a 400% increase. The Economic Development Coordinator for Marbleton/Big Piney added, "To give an indicator of how the economic downturn has affected the Marbleton/Big Piney communities, 65 boxes were given to families by the Food Bank during the winter storm on Tuesday evening."

The reverse has occurred in Pinedale. In the Dialogue on Poverty held in Pinedale on November 10, 2022, Sarah Murdoch of the Pinedale Community Food indicated that they are serving a lower number of people by 25%. While she doesn't know for sure but she thinks some of their clients have left the area.

Housing

The average apartment rent in Sublette County increased from \$865 in second quarter 2021 to \$900 in second quarter 2022 or by 4%. The rental cost of a house in second quarter 2022 was \$1,274 per month, a 6% increase over second quarter 2021, which was \$1,202. The median rent is \$745 and the median home value is \$275,100.

Nearly 214 households or 13% were cost burdened or as their housing cost was 31%-50% of total income and 175 households or 10.6% were severe-cost burdened as their housing cost was above 50% of their total income.

Sources:

- 1.) Dialogue on Poverty, Marbleton, November 10, 2022.
- 2.) Dialogue on Poverty, Pinedale, November 10, 2022.
- 3.) Wyoming Cost of Living for the Second Quarter of 2022, Wyoming Department of Administration and Information, Economic Analysis Division, October 31, 2022.
- 4.) Wyoming Community Development Authority, March 7, 2022, p. 49. Table II. 18.48 Median Rent Sublette County 2019 Five -Year ACS Data. Demographics, County Summaries, December 2021, Sublette County.
- 5.) Wyoming Community Development Authority, March 7, 2022 p 52. Table II 18.52 Cost Burden and Severe Cost Burden by Tenure, Sublette County 2019 Five-Year ACS Data. Demographics, County Summaries, December 2021, Sublette County.

Cost of Living

The cost of living for Sublette County is the **fourth highest** in the state, with a ranking of **101**. A ranking of 100 is the statewide average. This ranking compare food, housing, apparel, transportation, medical, recreation and personal care. Of these rankings, apparel is the highest with a ranking of 115, food is the second highest at 107, transportation is the third highest at 103, medical is the fourth highest at 100, housing is the fifth highest at 98, and recreation and personal care is the lowest ranking at 96.

It is to be noted that Sublette County is located in the Southwest Region of the Wyoming Cost of Living Regions and the inflation rate is 10.5% as compared to the statewide inflation rate of 10.1%.

Source: Wyoming Cost of Living for the Second Quarter of 2022, Wyoming Department of Administration and Information, Economic Analysis Division, October 31, 2022.

3. Community Services Block Grant Poverty Factors

According to the FFY2022 Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Allocations, Sublette County receives \$27,653 from the State of Wyoming. This reflects a poverty ranking of .9% or .85% of CSBG funds. Factors included are:

- Sublette County is the fourth lowest poverty ranking among all of the Wyoming counties.
- 701 Low Income Population and is 1.3% of State Low Income Population of 55,776
- 294 People Are Unemployed and is 1.7% of State Unemployed Population
- 120 People receive SNAP and is .4% of State SNAP Population

- 480 People receive Medicaid and is .8% of State Medicaid Population
- 6 People receive POWER/TANF and is .5% of the State of Wyoming Power Population
- 14 Applications Received for State Assistance and is .5% of State Applications Received for Assistance Population
- 48 people receiving SSI and is .7% of the State Population of SSI

Source: Wyoming Department of Health, FFY 2022 CSBG Allocations.

4. Healthy Lifestyle

General Health: Based on Wyoming Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System telephone survey conducted between 2015-2019, over seventy-five percent (75.1%) of the Sublette County respondents as compared to 78.3% of all Wyoming counties reported that they were not living a healthy lifestyle that included reporting smoking, no leisure time activity or not being at a healthy weight.

Health Care Access: Based on Wyoming Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System telephone survey conducted between 2015-2019, over nine percent (9.6%) of the Sublette County respondents as compared to 15.6% of all Wyoming counties have no health care coverage including health insurance, prepaid-plans such as HMOs or government plans such as Medicare. Nearly forty-six percent (45.8%) of the Sublette County population as compared to 33% of all Wyoming counties reported they do not have one or more persons they think of their personal doctor or health care provider. Over eight percent (8.1%) of the Sublette County population as compared to 13.5% of all Wyoming counties indicated that they needed to see a doctor but couldn't because of the cost at least one time in the past 12 months. Nearly fifty-two percent (51.8%) of the Sublette County population reported that that they had any of the three access issues as described above. This is compared to 42.8% of all Wyoming counties.

Birth Rates: There were 89 births in Sublette County in 2021 which was less than the previous year of 92 or 3.2% decrease in the birth rate.

Teen Births: The 2022 Wyoming Kids Count Data Book reports that Sublette County had 15.7% of the number of births to moms 15-19 per 1,000 live births from 2016-2020 and compares to 26.9% of the number in Wyoming.

Maternal and Infant Health: The maternal and infant health of Sublette County is generally better than that of the Wyoming population and is as follows:

- The Kids Count Data Center Report of the Annie Casey Foundation also reports that in 2021, 24.7% of Sublette County women received less than adequate prenatal care as compared to 23.5% statewide.
- The Kids Count Data Center also reports that in 2021 7.9% of Sublette County mothers smoked during pregnancy as compared to Wyoming statewide rate of 9.4%.
- The Wyoming Department of Health Vital Statistics reports that in 2021 Sublette County had 14 low birth weight babies or 15.7% of low-birth-weight babies in comparison to 9.4% statewide.

Mental Health: Nearly eleven percent (10.7%) of the Sublette County respondents reported in the Wyoming Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2015-2019 that they have been told that they have a depressive disorder. This is in comparison to 19.2% of all Wyoming counties. Over thirteen percent (13.4%) of Sublette County respondents also reported that they are binge drinkers with Wyoming men having 5 or more drinks on an occasion at least once in the past 30 days and women reporting 4 or more drinks on an occasion in the past 30 days. This is in comparison to the statewide percentage of 18% for binge drinking.

Tobacco Use: Over fourteen percent (14.4%) of the Sublette County respondents reported in the Wyoming Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2015-2019 that are currently smoking or use smokeless tobacco. This is in comparison to the statewide percentage of 18.4%.

Obesity: Almost sixty-five percent (64.9%) of the Sublette County residents reported in the Wyoming Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2015-2019 reported that they have a body mass index > 25.0 . This is in comparison to the statewide percentage of 65.2%. Over twenty-three percent (23.2%) of the Sublette County respondents reported in the Wyoming Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2015-2019 that they have a body mass index ≥ 30.0 . This is in comparison to the statewide mass index of 29.7.

Divorce Rate: There were 37 divorces in Sublette County in 2021 and was 37% (27 divorces) more than 2020. or a 53.6% increase (15) over 2016 (23).

Suicide: The age-adjusted suicide rate for Sublette County in 2011-2020 was 29.2% as compared to the statewide rate of 25.9%. Rates are per 100,000 people and age adjusted to the 2000 US Standard Population.

COVID-19: Sublette County has been impacted by the number of COVID-19 cases as shown by the following numbers:

- Number of Lab confirmed cases in Sublette County: 2, 267 (1.26% of state population of 179,366)
- Number of COVID-19 related death: 28 (1.4% of state population of 1,917)
- As of November 17, 2022, 36.75% of Sublette County's entire population has been vaccinated.

Disabilities: Following are some statistics for disabilities in Sublette County:

- The prevalence of disability in Sublette County in 2019 was 16.2% or 1,589 persons of all ages and the greatest number for an age category was 759 persons, 35 to 64 (19.2%) and the greatest percentage was 60.9% (406) for persons aged 75 or older in 2017. There were 936 males and 663 females.
- The greatest prevalence in 2019 of the six disability types (visual, hearing, ambulatory, cognitive, self-care, and independent living) in Sublette County was ambulatory disability with 808 (8.7%) persons and hearing disability with 720 (7.3%) persons.

Sources:

- 1.) 2022 Wyoming Kids Count Data Book, Sublette County page 22. Births to Teens.
- 2.) Kids Count Data Center, 2022. Women Receiving Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care in Sublette.

- <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/3524-women-receiving-less-than-adequate-prenatal-care?>
- 3.) Kids Count Data Center, 2022. Licensed Child Care Facilities, Sublette County.
<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/3561-licensed-child-care-facilities?>
 - 4.) Kids Count Data Center, 2022. Child Care Capacity, Sublette County.
<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/3562-child-care-capacity?>
 - 5.) Kids Count Data Center, 2022. Mothers Who Smoked During Pregnancy in Sublette.
<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/3552-mothers-who-smoked-during-pregnancy?>
 - 6.) Wyoming Community Development Authority, March 7, 2022. Table II 18.14 Disability by Age, Sublette County 2019 Five-Year ACS Data. Demographics, County Summaries, December 2021, Sublette County.
 - 7.) Wyoming Community Development Authority, March 7, 2022. Table II 18.18 Total Disabilities Tallied: Aged 5 and Older Lincoln County 2019 Five-Year ACS Data. Demographics, County Summaries, December 2021, Sublette County.
 - 8.) WY 2011-2020 Age-Adjusted Suicide Rates¹ by County of Residence. Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics.
 - 9.) WY 2011-2020 Low Birth Weight Babies by County of Residence. Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics.
 - 10.) WY 2006-2021 Total Number of Births by Mother's County of Residence and Year. Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics.
 - 11.) WY 2011-2020 Divorces by County of Occurrence. Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics.
 - 12.) Wyoming Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Wyoming Department of Health, 2015- 2019.
 - 13.) New York Times, Coronavirus Disease, Sublette County, WY, 11/16/22.
 - 14.) New York Times, Coronavirus Disease, Wyoming, 11/16/22.
 - 15.) Sublette County Public Health, 11/16/22. COVID-19 Vaccines & Boosters.
<https://www.sublettewycovid.com/vaccines>

5. Children and Youth in Poverty

Population and Poverty by Families: Table 30 shows that there are 2,296 families* in Sublette County. Of these, there is an estimated 7.8% or 179 families that live in poverty. Of these, there are 1,028 families with related children that are under 18 years old. Of these 1,028 families there are 55 (6.7%) married-couple families and 100 (75.2%) female householder, no husband present with related children that live in poverty.

	<i>All Families</i>		<i>Married-Couple Families</i>		<i>Female Householder, No Husband Present</i>	
	Total	Percent Below Poverty Level	Total	Percent Below Poverty Level	Total	Percent Below Poverty Level
Families	2,296	7.8% (179)	1,992	3.9% (78)	212	47.2% (100)
With related children of householder under 18 years old	1,028	15.1% (155)	824	6.7% (55)	133	75.2% (100)

With related children of householder under 5 years	277	24.9% (69)	204	0% (0)	74	94.5% (69)
With related children of householder under 5 years and 5 to 17 years	270	4.4% (12)	206	5.8% (12)	12	0% (0)
With related children of householder 5 to 17 years	481	15.4% (74)	414	10.4% (43)	48	64.6% (74)

*A **family** is defined by the United States Census Bureau for statistical purposes as "a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption **and** residing together; all such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one **family**."

Free and Reduced Lunch: According to the 2019-2020 Wyoming Department of Education following are the statistics for free and reduced school lunches. Note: During the school years of 2020-21 and 2021-22 school lunches were free for all students:

- 20.36% (228 out of 1,120) of Sublette County School District #1 school children are eligible for free or reduced lunches.
 - Bondurant Elementary – 0% (0 students)
 - Pinedale Elementary – 22.84% (77 students)
 - Pinedale Middle School – 22.84% (66 students)
 - Pinedale High School – 13.14% (41 students)
 - Skyline Academy – no data

Note: During the past two school years, all children were eligible for free lunch.

- 27.12% (141 out of 520) of Sublette County School District #9 school children are eligible for free or reduced lunches.
 - Big Piney Elementary – 33.75% (54 students)
 - LaBarge Elementary – 30.19% (16 students)
 - Big Piney Middle School – 33.33% (43 students)
 - Big Piney High School – 15.73% (28 students)

Note: During the past two school years, all children were eligible for free lunch.

- During the Dialogue on Poverty meeting in Marbleton on November 10, 2022 the Economic Development official for Marbleton and Big Piney indicated that, "Twenty-eight percent (28%) of kids qualify for free and reduced lunch. The need is likely more than that because families are too proud to apply for free and reduced lunch."

District Graduation Rates: The district graduation rate for 2020-2021 is as follows:

- Sublette County School District #1 – 94.1% (79 out of 84 students)
- Sublette County School District #9 – 95% (38 out of 40 students)

- Wyoming All Students Average – 82.5%

Child Care: According to the Kids Count Data Center Report of the Annie Casey Foundation, in 2021 there were 9 licensed child care facilities in Sublette County that had a capacity of 321 children.

Sources:

- 1.) Kids Count Data Center, 2022. Licensed Child Care Facilities and Child Care Capacity in Sublette County. [https://datacenter,kidscount.org/data/tables/ 3561](https://datacenter,kidscount.org/data/tables/3561) and [3562](https://datacenter,kidscount.org/data/tables/3562).
- 2.) Kids Count Data Center, 2022. Families with Related Children Below Poverty in Sublette County. <https://datacenter,kidscount.org/data/tables>
- 3.) U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder S1702. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families. 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Sublette County, Wyoming.
- 4.) Wyoming Department of Education (2020). USDA National Food Lunch Program and Local Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility District and School Level for 2019-2020.
- 5.) Wyoming Department of Education (2020). USDA National Food Lunch Program and Local Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility District and State Level for 2019-2020.
- 6.) Wyoming Department of Education (2022). Wyoming District Graduation Rates Federal Graduation Rates for the 2020-2021 Cohort.

D. Dialogue on Poverty – Three (3) tripartite board members (see Appendix H – Sign- In Sheets for Community Meetings) attended the Dialogue on Poverty on December 19, 2022, via ZOOM at 4:00PM. The results of the Sublette County Community Assessment of Needs and Services 2023 was discussed. A Power Point presentation of the Community Needs Assessment was presented (see **Appendix G – Power Point Presentation, December 19, 2022, ZOOM**). Following were their comments:

Extent of Poverty in Sublette County:

In discussion regarding the increased number of people served at the Big Piney/Marbleton Food Bank, it was discussed that the families served at the Pinedale Food Basket has decreased. Previously the Pinedale Food Bank served 95 families and now it is serving 50 families, a 47.3% decrease. It is believed that those residents with higher incomes are moving to the Pinedale area. The billionaires are pushing the millionaires out of Jackson and into Pinedale. Folks with lower income live in Big Piney/Marbleton as there is lower cost of housing.

Believe that the numbers of those in poverty are significantly higher but many people don't ask for help.

Factors that Exacerbate the Impacts of Poverty:

In discussion that women make a lower wage than men, it was discussed that people (usually women) that begin employment at Ridley's Grocery store in Pinedale make \$10/hour. At the new Target in Jackson, people begin at \$24/hr.

Gaps in Services:

It was discussed that the Food Basket in Pinedale is trying to meet the gap of items (diapers, clothes, etc.), resources and services of the Pinedale Pregnancy Resource Center when it closed this year.

Recommended Priorities for Meeting Needs:

The members recommended that Housing and Transportation for medical care should be placed as higher priorities for meeting the needs of those in poverty.

IV. Summary of Needs Assessment

The intent of the community needs assessment was to find out the following:

- What is the extent of poverty in the county that includes data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age and race/ethnicity?
- What factors support the creation of poverty?
- What factors exacerbate the impacts of poverty?
- What services and resources are currently available to offset the creation or impacts of poverty?
- What are the gaps in services?
- What are the priorities for meeting needs of the low income?
- What are the barriers to services? (i.e., knowledge, getting to the resources, childcare)

Following is a summary of the conclusions for each of the goals of the 2023 Sublette County Community Needs Assessment:

A. Extent of Poverty in Sublette County:

- Sublette County holds 1.3% (701) of the statewide population (55,776) who live in poverty. The U.S. Census Bureau indicates that the low-income population is higher at 835.
- Nearly nine percent (8.5%) of total Sublette County population lives in poverty. Of this population, 50.8% are males and 49.2% are females.
- The White Alone Race in Sublette County showed the greatest amount of poverty at 8.2% or 779 people.
- Of ethnicity Hispanic or Latino showed the greatest percentage of people living in poverty with 32.7% or 237 people.
- The largest age population in poverty are the 5-17 years old with 290 youth or 16.8% of this population and the 18-34 years old with 306 adults or 16.6% of this population.
- In Sublette County there are 3,529 households; of these there are 177 households that earn under \$15,000 (5% of total households).
- Of the 2,296 families in Sublette County there are 1,028 families with related children; of these, there are 155 (15.1%) families that live in poverty that have related children. Of this population 55 (6.7%) are married couples, 0 (0%) are single fathers and 100 (75.2%) are single mothers.
- The Marbleton/Big Piney Food Pantry had a 400% increase since pre-Covid in number of families served in 2022 as 70 families are served twice per month. Previously 35 families were served once per month.

In response to the question, “In the past year have your clients had difficulty meeting expenses,” a provider survey respondent indicated, “Groceries and access to medical care are probably the most difficult pieces of this equation at present.”

- During the Dialogue on Poverty meeting in Marbleton on November 10, 2022 the Economic Development official for Marbleton and Big Piney indicated that, “**Twenty-eight percent (28%)** of kids in Sublette County School District #9 qualify for free and

reduced lunch. The need is likely more than that because families are too proud to apply for free and reduced lunch.”

B. Factors that Support the Creation of Poverty:

- The cost of living is the **fourth highest** in the state. Apparel is ranked as the highest cost of living category for Sublette County (115). Food is the second highest at 107. Transportation is the third highest at 103 and medical is the lowest at 100. Housing and recreation and personal care have rankings below 100. One Hundred (100) is the statewide average.

In response to the question, “How serious a problem?” client respondents indicated that affordable clothing/shoes was a minor problem and affordable food choices was a serious to minor problem.

- Women working full time year-round in Sublette County are paid only 59 cents to every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men working full time.
- Service providing employees are typically female workers. Many low-income women work in the accommodation and food services with no health benefits making \$9.59/hour or \$19,956 annually if they work full-time.
- Average weekly wages in Sublette County decreased from \$1,093 in 2018 to \$1,052 in 2020 that represents a 3.7% decrease and is affecting the amount of money that wage earners are receiving.

In response to the question, “Who do you see as a vulnerable (at-risk population) in Sublette County and why?” a client survey respondent indicated, “Local wage earners and the unemployed: local jobs **not paying living wages to parents and families.**”

- There is not a major employer in the area as oil and gas has decreased tremendously in the past 10 years.
- Over nine percent (9.6%) of the Sublette County respondents have no health care coverage including health insurance, prepaid-plans such as HMOs or government plans such as Medicare and over eight (8.1%) percent of the Sublette County population indicated that they needed to see a doctor but couldn’t because of the cost at least one time in the past 12 months. The high cost of health care and prescription drugs is burdening low-income families.

To the question, “What is the greatest concern regarding your family?” a client survey respondent indicated, “Affordable insurance for my 45 yr. old daughter that doesn’t cost \$847.00 a month!”

C. Factors that Exacerbate the Impacts of Poverty:

- Rent for an average apartment has increased by 4% from \$865 in 2nd quarter 2021 to \$900 in second quarter 2022. Considerably higher is the cost of renting a home at \$1,274. For a low-income service worker making \$19,956 annually or \$1,663 monthly only \$389 would be remaining for other needs, i.e., food, clothing, utilities, medical, prescription costs and unexpected costs.

- Nearly 214 households in Sublette County or 13% were cost burdened as their housing cost was 31%-50% of total income and 175 households or 10.6% were severe-cost burdened as their housing cost was above 50% of their total income.

In response to the question, "In the past year have you had difficulty meeting expenses and why?" a client survey respondent indicated, "Rent \$900 and I get paid \$1,147 a month. Hard to make ends meet."

- There is no public transportation system in Sublette County except for transportation through Rendezvous Pointe in Pinedale and Southwest Sublette County Pioneers in Big Piney. Southwest Sublette County Pioneers in Big Piney will provide transportation of up to 100 miles for non-seniors. There is a need for transportation offered on evenings or week-ends or for longer destinations for medical services.
- While the unemployment rate has decreased by .8% from 4.3% (September 2021) to 3.4% in September 2022, employment decreased by 56 persons to 3,833 (September 2022) from 3,889 (September 2021.) resulting in people still looking for work or taking part-time jobs or temporary jobs that do not give them enough income to live on.

In response to the question, "In the past year have you had difficulty meeting expenses?" client survey respondent indicated, "I work part-time and my hours are cut as business is slow."

- Lack of affordable child care or pre-school programs particularly for children under the age of 2. This provides issues for those parents trying to work with children.

In answer to the question, "What is the greatest concern regarding your family?" a client respondent indicated, "Cost of living and child care. Just because I work from home does not mean I can keep my kids at home and should be denied child care assistance."

- There is need for more mental health services to address alcohol abuse, illegal drugs/substance abuse and depression and anxiety.

Client survey respondents indicated, "What is the greatest concern regarding your family?" responded, "My son who is an adult now but unable to join adult world or workforce due to depression and anxiety."

D. Services and Resources Currently Available to Offset Creation or Impacts of Poverty:

- Many services are available in Marbleton/Big Piney and Pinedale with fewer services offered in Big Piney/Marbleton.
- While the Coordinated Care monthly meeting discontinued during COVID, the Sublette Prevention Coalition monthly meeting allows prevention agencies to discuss various issues in the community and learn about resources that other agencies provide.
- There are a number of agencies with web sites that provide a resource list including, bigpiney.com and marbleton.com, Sublette Prevention Coalition, Pinedale Online,

greatnonprofits.org, Sublette Chamber of Commerce, Sublette County Sexual Assault and Family Violence Task Force, Sublettehospitaldistrict.org, bridgeofsublettecounty.com, pinedaleearlychildhood.org, Wyoming Hunger Initiatives, Wyoming 2-1-1

- Bridge of Sublette County is a resource in the community that its goal is to “Reduce the social costs of poverty, strengthen the workforce, and build a more prosperous and sustainable community.” It has a dedicated community resource coordinator and is a part of the UnitesUs on-line site that helps agencies and communities to build and scale a coordinated care network, track outcomes together, identify service gaps and at-risk populations, and most importantly, empower members of the community to take ownership of their own health.
- More work needs to be done by all agencies that serve the low-income to educate the Sublette County community of the extent of poverty – statistics, case stories without names and various resources in the community.
- A number of agencies provide linkages to resources on a regular basis to their clients as a part of their services.
- A number of private agencies provides resources to fill in gaps for the low income including High Country Behavioral Health, SAFV Task Force, Rapid Response, Kickin’ Cancer, Green River Valley Health Foundation, Green Pastures Center Thrift Store, Lion’s Club, and St. Andrew’s in the Pines Episcopal Church, Town of Marbleton, Southwest Sublette County Pioneers Senior Center in Big Piney and donations from private citizens.

E. Gaps in Services:

- Marbleton/Big Piney:
 - *Transportation; people have to go elsewhere to obtain needed medical services; Senior Center indicated they can provide transportation out of-town of a 100-mile radius even to non-seniors
 - *Few options for full-time child care or pre-school; need Head Start;
 - *Low-income housing;
 - *Mental health and substance abuse counseling services;
 - *In-home services for hospice and other help;
 - *Parenting classes.
- Pinedale:
 - *Pregnancy Resource Center closed this year. They provided diapers and other needed items and services to low-income families. They also coordinated with Sublette County Public Health on the car seat program. An agency is needed to provide those services;
 - *Low-Income housing;
 - *Moving cost;
 - *Medical Assistance – People come from other states and they need assistance for medical services. Many can’t afford the medication;
 - *Medicaid expansion in State of Wyoming;
 - *Need to provide assistance for people who are homeless as there is no homeless shelter in Pinedale and the only option is to move them onto somewhere else; and

*Mental Health – Currently there is a 3-month wait at High Country Behavioral Health. Telehealth at High Country Behavioral Health is 2-3 weeks. Teton Behavioral Therapy is 2 days and an immediate appointment for an emergency but they don't do special rates and sliding scale and they will get billed.

F. Recommended Priorities for Meeting Needs:

Priority #1: Health – Medical or dental screening; primary health services as medication, clinic visits, and home health care; immunization, prevention of drug abuse or alcoholism, treatment of drug abuse; health services for expectant and new mothers and infants; mental health counseling; family planning and counseling, and transportation to medical services in other communities.

Priority #2: Transportation – In-town and out-of-town transportation to and from medical services; transportation to and from work; and transportation to and from grocery shopping and other needed services.

Priority #3: Housing (non-emergency) - Information, referral & follow-up; homeowner counseling; loan assistance; landlord/tenant issues; rental & mortgage assistance; utility assistance; home repair; home rehabilitation & weatherization assistance; and home energy conservation.

Priority #4 Self-Sufficiency: Case management, child care, youth programs or services, family/individual counseling programs, family development/intervention for family stabilization; and activities to cooperate with and participate in the planning and/or coordination of community services for low-income groups.

Priority #5: Nutrition/Food (non-emergency) – Home-delivered meals; congregate meals; food processing; food banks; garden projects; surplus food distribution; and nutritional education.

G. Barriers to Services:

- Clients need to know of services available and how to apply for them. Some possible aids would be:
 - A Sublette County Resource Directory on-line, on face book and in print.
 - Flier or business card printed with the names/numbers of agencies and services provided.
- Elected officials in Sublette County do not acknowledge that there is poverty in the county. Until there is acknowledgment of the poverty, there will not be a unified effort in the county to take actions to reduce poverty. Individual agencies and communities are trying to mitigate the poverty issues.

Participant at Marbleton/Big Piney Dialogue on Poverty meeting indicated that, “It was interesting to note that in a candidate forum for Sublette County officials, 13 out of 16 candidates stood up and said we don’t have an issue with poverty in Sublette County.’

- Distance between communities in Sublette County impedes access to services particularly when one doesn’t have transportation.
- Agencies need to promote the resources and services that they provide as there is a fear that if the available state and federal resources aren’t being used, they will lessen or go away.
- There is a stigma of going to get help. The attitude is one just needs to “cowboy up”.

In response to the question, “In the past year have your clients had difficulty meeting expenses?” a provider survey respondent indicated, “Excessive lunch bills but won’t sign up for free/reduced lunch.”

- The low-income population feels that they don’t have a voice in their community.

In response to the question, “How well does your community meet the needs of providing low-income people with a voice in their community?” the majority of both clients and providers indicated “poor” to “not at all”.

- Language is a barrier with Spanish speaking families as it is difficult to communicate with them to provide services.

In response to the question, “Who do you see as a vulnerable (at-risk population in Sublette County and why?” a survey client respondent indicated, “People who don’t speak English and need a translator.”

From the results, High Country Behavioral Health will be preparing a Community Action Plan for the next three years that will be submitted to the State of Wyoming Department of Health. The completed Sublette County Community Assessment of Needs and Services for 2023 is available on High Country Behavioral Health web site: www.health.hcbh.org