Assessing Community Need in Suburban Allegheny County: Southeastern Allegheny County

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Community Need Index

- Population below 100% of the federal poverty line†
- Families headed by single females†
- Youth ages 16 to 19 without a high school diploma or equivalent, and not enrolled in school†
- Civilian males ages 16-64 who are unemployed or not in the labor force†
- Population below 200% of the federal poverty line
- Houses vacant
- Households with no available vehicle

* All indicators are Census variables measured as percentages
† Indicators included in Hare and Mather’s criteria for severely distressed neighborhoods
Former Method of Analysis: Poverty Rate
Communities with Changing Need
2000-2009

Communities with Emerging Need
At least two tiers worse in 2009, in top 50% (tiers 6-10) in need in 2009

Communities with Deepening Need
At least one tier worse in 2009, and in top 40% (tiers 7-9) in need in 2000

Stabilizing Communities
Starting in top 40% in need in 2000, and at least two tiers better in 2009 (and outside of top 30% in 2009)
Proximity of Struggling Communities to Healthy Communities
Communities with Limited Access to Public Transportation

Percentage of a tract within 2000 feet of a bus stop:

High access = more than 80%
Moderate access = 40-80%
Limited access = less than 40%
Families with Young Children

Community Need Index
- Low Need
- Moderate Need
- High Need - Distressed

Families with Children Under 5 in Poverty
- NA, fewer than 15 total families
- Less than 15%
- 15 to 29%
- 30 to 49%
- 50% or higher
Communities with Changing Need

Average Percent of Residents Served by DHS by Changing Community Needs

- No Changing Need
- Emerging Need
- Deepening Need
- Stabilizing
- All Communities

Percentage Active with DHS

Level of Community Need in 2009

Moderate Need: 10%
Moderate Need: 11%
High Need: 13%
Very High Need: 18%
Distressed: 24%

Distressed: 19%
Very High Need: 15%
High Need: 20%
Moderate Need: 13%
Moderate Need: 11%
Stabilizing: 9%
Emerging Need: 9%
No Changing Need: 8%
Stabilizing: 12%
Emerging Need: 11%
Moderate Need: 11%
No Changing Need: 10%
Next Steps

• Updating the Community Need Index as additional years of Census ACS data are released

• Expanding use of a new, similar relative-need index which has been developed for tracts within the City of Pittsburgh

• Including the Community Need Index in internal maps as is relevant for planning decisions

• Helping community groups use Community Need Index data in decision-making

• For more information: http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/research-basic-needs.aspx