OHIO HEARTLAND COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Marion, Crawford & Morrow Counties, Ohio

Completed: January 17, 2018

Period Covered: July 1, 2016 – January 17, 2018
Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission (OHCAC) is located in North Central Ohio with our clients living in Marion, Morrow, and Crawford Counties. The 1,211.68 square miles are comprised of 142,215 citizens living in 54.18% Urban Population and 45.82% Rural Population with Morrow County having the largest Rural Population at 88.84%. Our Rural Population is comprised of under the Age of 18, with 22.23% or 31,614 citizens, 18-64 at 60.1% or 85,471 citizens and 17.67% being 65+ or 25,129 citizens. Our rural population is comprised of 97.82% White citizens as well as 1.04% Multiple Race, 0.40% African American, 0.32% Asian, 0.26% Some Other Race, 0.13% Native American/Alaska Native, and 0.03% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Males make up 51.05% of our total population.

The U.S. Census Department defines Urban as an area comprised of a densely settled core of census tracts and/or census blocks that meet minimum population density requirements and/or land use requirements. The Census Bureau identifies two types of urban areas: Urbanized Areas of 50,000 or more people and Urban Clusters of at least 2,500 and less than 50,000 people. None of the three counties we serve through OHCAC encompass an Urbanized Area but do include a few Urban Clusters. For that reason there are no Urban statistics available because we service Rural communities.

Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission (OHCAC) conducted a needs assessment during August and September of 2017. Surveyed clients represented sixty-four different towns/cities and thirty-eight different Zip Codes. OHCAC clients were surveyed and given a list of possible needs, as well as an opportunity to list any other needs, and asked to rate items currently needed on a scale of one to five, with five being most needed. An example of the survey is attached to this assessment. The results of the three county surveys are compiled to produce a guide for prioritization of agency efforts.

The results of the three county surveys are as follows:

**MARION COUNTY**

In Marion County seventy-seven community partners, including service agencies, elected officials, etc., and clients were surveyed and asked to prioritize the needs for services in the community, from Least Needed to Most Needed. The top results for Most Needed were **Access to Alcohol/Substance Abuse Treatment** with 49%, **Access to Mental Health Treatment and Improved Rental Housing Conditions** tying with 43% each and **Access to Dental Services; Assistance with Prescriptions and Safe & Affordable Rental Housing** with 40% each.

Marion County's population estimate as of July 1, 2016 was 65,096 citizens with 11,847 or 18.2% living in poverty. The median household income for 2015 was $42,966.

Of the 65,096 citizens in Marion County, 51,682 are 18 years of age or older and it is estimated that 9,871 or 19.1% drink alcohol excessively. Final 2016 overdose deaths shows 28 citizens passed away ranking our county 11th in the state.

There are 71 Mental Health Providers in Marion County working out to 1 for every 925.7 citizens. There are 8,831 Medicare fee for services participants in Marion County with 2,065 or 23.4% suffering from depression with an average of 1% increase in diagnosis since 2010.

In 2015 there were 39 dentists in Marion County to service all of our citizens however 12,208 or 23.7% total adults went without a recent dental examination, which has led to 10,861 adults having poor dental health meaning they have had six or more of their permanent teeth removed due to tooth decay,
gum disease, or infection. Citizens without health insurance, under the age of 65 is 7.5% which could be contributing to the lack of dental care.

In Marion County there are only 1,128 HUD assisted housing units or 4% of the 27,756 total housing units for the county. Of those units 583 are Housing Choice Voucher units, 460 are Project-Based Section 8 units, 76 are Section 202 units or supportive housing for the elderly and 9 are Section 811 units or supportive housing for persons with disabilities.

The total renter-occupied housing units in Marion County is 13,672. The average age for all homes built in Marion County is 57 years with 49.84% being built before 1960. Of the 27,756 total housing units in Marion County 27.88% have one or more substandard housing condition. Substandard housing includes the following conditions:

1) lacking complete plumbing facilities - hot and cold running water, a flushing toilet and a bathtub or shower-of which 51 units do not
2) lacking complete kitchen facilities - a sink with a faucet, a stove or range and a refrigerator-of which 2,171 units do not
3) with 1.01 or more occupants per room of which 356 units do,
4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30%, of which there are 3,052 households and
5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30%, of which there are 3,818 households.

Average rent for Marion County from 2011-2015 was $693.

On average in the State of Ohio in 2016 a citizen over the age of 65 filled 24.1 prescriptions per year, while citizens age 19-64 filled 15.5 prescriptions per year and children age 0-18 filled 4.9 per year. The average prescription drug cost in the State of Ohio for 2016 was $13.95 equating to any average annual cost for a citizen over the age of 65 of $336.20. The average monthly Social Security benefit for 2017 is $1,342 equaling $16,104 per year, meaning that prescription drug costs account on average to 2% of a senior’s annual income. With 7.5% of Ohio citizen’s under the age of 65 without health insurance coming up with an average of $216.23 per year to fill their prescriptions is very difficult.

Marion County rationale for OHCAC Services:

OHCAC has established a working partnership with service agencies to ensure that clients are receiving access to all community resources.

Regular Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a program offered directly from the Ohio Development Services Agency. Customers may receive a one-time credit or voucher to their main heating source. From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 RHEAP helped 2,578 households.

Winter Crisis Program (WCP) is a program designed for a one-time payment for utility bills, bulk fuels, coal, wood or wood pellets. The customer must be income eligible and either have a disconnection notice, be without heating services, or have less than a 10 day supply of bulk fuel. From November 1, 2016 to April 15, 2017 WCP helped 1,357 households.

Summer Crisis Program (SCP) is a program designed for a one-time payment on your electric bill. Eligibility Requirements are: a member of the household who would medically benefit from assistance verified by a licensed physician or registered nurse practitioner, or seniors age 60 and over who meet
the 2017 Poverty Income Guidelines. From July 1, 2017 to September 15, 2017 SCP helped 222 households.

Columbia Gas Fuel Funds (CGFF) is a program designed for a one-time payment on Columbia Gas bills for income eligible clients. In 2017 CGFF helped 101 households.

First Energy Fuel Funds (FEFF) is program designed for a one-time payment on Ohio Edison bills for income eligible clients. In 2017 FEFF helped 85 households.

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) is a program designed for a one-time payment on AEP bills for income eligible clients. In 2017 N2N helped 35 households in Marion, Morrow and Crawford Counties.

Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) helps Ohioans manage their energy costs year round to avoid disconnection. The program allows participants to pay a percentage of their gross income toward their utility bills, instead of the total amount of current charges. The payment is based on a percentage of the household gross income. From July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 PIPP helped 3,339 households.

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) assists clients once a year with rental assistance. In 2016 and early 2017 we helped 15 households, for a total of 35 individuals, with emergency rental assistance, with an average rent of $487.27.

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) provides financial and technical assistance in the rehabilitation and weatherization of low income owner occupied and renter occupied housing. In 2016 OHCAC HWAP weatherized 64 homes in Marion, Morrow and Crawford Counties.

Electric Partnership Program (EPP) is a program through the State of Ohio that provides services to clients with regulated utilities, such as AEP and First Energy, with replacement of non-energy efficient appliances and light bulbs. In 2016 EPP helped 75 homes in Marion and Crawford Counties.

AEP has their own program that provides the same energy measurements as EPP, but is for only AEP clients. In 2016 AEP helped 53 homes in Marion and Crawford Counties.

Community Connections through First Energy also provides energy measurements similar to EPP for only First Energy clients. In 2016 Community Connections helped 65 homes in Marion and Crawford Counties.

Warm Choice through Columbia Gas also provides energy measurements for only Columbia Gas customers. In 2016 Warm Choice helped 2 homes in Marion County.

Ohio Fuel Funds (OFF) is program designed for a one-time payment on Ohio Edison bills for income eligible clients. In 2016 OFF helped 565 households in Marion, Crawford and Morrow Counties.

Comments and Concerns from our Marion County surveyed clients included: “Many of above needs are being met by other agencies. I caution OHCAC not to duplicate these, but assist those agencies; More assistance for medicine. Seniors cannot afford medicine. Alcohol & Drug, Mental Health Ed & Prevention; Help and assistance with water bills; Assistance in finding jobs for recovering addicts/felons-rehabilitated. They start hanging with the old crowd because no one will hire them and give them
a fresh start; Detox facility in Marion for women and children; All of the needs listed above are so important; Transportation; Is there any way I could get help with transportation; I think they do the best they can and Preschool funding.

MORROW COUNTY

Sixty-six community partners were surveyed in Morrow County. The top results for Most Needed were Safe and Affordable Rental Housing with 47%, Energy Assistance and Homelessness Prevention/Shelters with 44% each, Employment and Work Experience with 42%, Improved Rental Housing Conditions; Access to Food and Clothing and Access to Mental Health Treatment with 41% each.

Morrow County’s population estimate as of July 1, 2016 was 35,036 citizens with 3,959 or 11.3% living in poverty. The median household income in 2015 dollars was $51,993.

The total renter-occupied housing units in Morrow County is 4,958. The average age for all homes built in Morrow County is 38 years with 31.27% being built before 1960. Of the 14,085 total housing units in Morrow County 26.31% have one or more substandard housing condition. Substandard housing includes the following conditions:

1) lacking complete plumbing facilities-hot and cold running water, a flushing toilet and a bathtub or shower-of which 140 units do not
2) lacking complete kitchen facilities-a sink with a faucet, a stove or range and a refrigerator-of which 880 units do not
3) with 1.01 or more occupants per room of which 245 units do
4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30%, of which there are 2,215 households and
5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30%, of which there are 1,042 households.

Average rent for Morrow County from 2011-2015 was $677.

Morrow Metropolitan Housing currently has 7 families on the waitlist with 5 of the families having children in the household and 3 of the families having a disability in the household. Currently the waitlist is closed and is not receiving any new applicants, with an average wait time of 2-4 years. Morrow County Metropolitan Housing is currently helping 93 families on the Housing Choice Voucher Program with 30 of the families having children in the household and an average annual adjusted income of $13,200. (Collected from email with Morrow County Metropolitan Housing Authority on September 26, 2017).

In Morrow County there are only 233 HUD assisted housing units or 1.6% of the 14,085 total housing units for the county. Of those units 103 are Housing Choice Voucher units, 54 are Project-Based Section 8 units, 52 are Section 202 units or supportive housing for the elderly and 24 are Section 811 units or supportive housing for persons with disabilities.

In August 2017 the unemployment rate in Morrow County was 4.7% however the issues are not the number of jobs available, but the extent to which a citizen of the county has to go to get a job. The mean travel time to work for workers 16 years of age and older is 30.1 minutes and 719 households do not own a motor vehicle equaling 5.66%. There is no public transportation within the county. High School Graduation rate within the county is 93.2% however only 22.75% of the population age 25 or older have an Associate’s Degree or higher and only 13.88% of the population age 25 or older have a
Bachelor’s Degree or higher, meaning they don’t have the qualifications to meet the demanding job market that is available. The average weekly benefit as of June 2017 was $343 working out to a yearly salary of $17,836 which for a family of 4 works out to less than 75% of the 2017 Federal Poverty Level.

Food insecurity refers to USDA’s measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household’s need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods. In Morrow County 11.9% or 4,150 of its citizens reported food insecurity, according to Feeding America in 2015. Thirty-four percent of Morrow County citizens are above the 185% poverty guidelines for other Nutrition Programs, 13% are between the 130%-185% guideline and 53% are below the SNAP threshold of 130%. Students receiving free/reduced lunches in Morrow County accounted for 2,407 or 45.11% of the 5,336 student population. As of August 31, 2017 there were 3,983 SNAP recipients of which 1,627 or 40.8% were children.

There are 17 Mental Health Providers in Morrow County working out to 1 for every 2,067.8 citizens. There are 3,033 Medicare fee for services participants in Morrow County with 599 or 19.7% suffering from depression.

Morrow County Job and Family Services Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) Program assisted 13 Families with an eviction notice on their rent. PRC assisted the employment process by providing: 73 families with car repairs, 18 individuals were assisted with transportation to and from employment, 403 gasoline vouchers were given out, 8 individuals were assisted with getting a background check for new employment, 51 Individuals were given Wal-Mart vouchers to purchase items needed to start new employment, 5 Families were assisted with car insurance down payments, 6 Individuals were assisted with getting tags/registrations/license fees to be able to get to employment. Energy Assistance was provided to 36 families to stop utility disconnect for electric, gas, or water in 2016. (Collected from email with Morrow County Job and Family Services on September 27, 2017).

Currently there is not a Homeless Shelter located within Morrow County. Citizens are often referred to Marion County’s Homeless Shelters which are currently at full capacity.

Morrow County rationale for OHCAC Services:

OHCAC has established a working partnership with service agencies to ensure that clients are receiving access to all community resources.

Regular Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a program offered directly from the Ohio Development Services Agency. Customers may receive a one-time credit or voucher to their main heating source. From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 RHEAP helped 1,115 households.

Winter Crisis Program (WCP) is a program designed for a one-time payment for utility bills, bulk fuels, coal, wood or wood pellets. The customer must be income eligible and either have a disconnection notice, be without heating services, or have less than a 10 day supply of bulk fuel. From November 1, 2016 to April 15, 2017 WCP helped 778 households.

Summer Crisis Program (SCP) is a program designed for a one-time payment on your electric bill. Eligibility Requirements are: a member of the household who would medically benefit from assistance.
verified by a licensed physician or registered nurse practitioner, or seniors age 60 and over who meet the 2017 Poverty Income Guidelines. From July 1, 2017 to September 15, 2017 SCP helped 207

Columbia Gas Fuel Funds (CGFF) is a program designed for a one-time payment on Columbia Gas bills for income eligible clients. In 2017 CGFF helped 21 households.

First Energy Fuel Funds (FEFF) is program designed for a one-time payment on Ohio Edison bills for income eligible clients. In 2017 FEFF helped 15 households.

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) is a program designed for a one-time payment on AEP bills for income eligible clients. In 2017 N2N helped 35 households in Marion, Morrow and Crawford Counties.

Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) helps Ohioans manage their energy costs year round to avoid disconnection. The program allows participants to pay a percentage of their gross income toward their utility bills, instead of the total amount of current charges. The payment is based on a percentage of the household gross income. From July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 PIPP helped 1,416 households.

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) provides financial and technical assistance in the rehabilitation and weatherization of low income owner occupied and renter occupied housing. In 2016 OHCAC HWAP weatherized 64 homes in Marion, Morrow and Crawford Counties.

Ohio Fuel Funds (OFF) is program designed for a one-time payment on Ohio Edison bills for income eligible clients. In 2016 OFF helped 565 households in Marion, Crawford and Morrow Counties.

Morrow County offers an Emergency Food Pantry & Personal Needs Pantry (PNP), for items that cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits, through which, as of August 31, 2017, they have helped 176 families with Emergency Food and 191 families with PNP, and have received $6,431 in food donations from area businesses. In 2016 the Food Pantry and PNP provided Emergency Food to 339 families and 370 families received PNP products. The Morrow County office received $34,379 in food and personal needs donations from area businesses.

Comments and Concerns from our Morrow County surveyed clients included: “After school programming; Affordable Housing, Affordable Day Care; Bed Bug Eradication; Ohio Heartland Community Action does not have to do this by themselves but partner with agencies who do/take on their roles; More low income housing. More job training for high school students; Rent assistance, food pantry assistance M-F and Sat; Help with property taxes for disabled and seniors with low and fixed incomes; Reduced taxes for disable and seniors and those who have lost jobs due to cuts, shut downs and business moving. Services to address if resources are available: Financial aide for stay at home moms with young children where father is working and child care is not affordable. Also have the ability to have young children home with a parent to preserve families. Help with needed dental services, Medicaid or Medicare does not cover. Encourage those in charge to promote Gainful employment to come to the area; All these options are great needs in Morrow County but unless the basics are covered so I only highlighted the basics below. Work Readiness Preparation Programs; Helping people how to budget money; We have no shelter(s) available for those facing homelessness in our county. Access to safe and affordable rental housing; My answers are based on what is available in the Mt. Gilead area. Lots of help in all areas is needed in the out lying communities. Programs are needed to engage, educate and occupy teens in Morrow Co. They are our next adults and right now most of them wander listlessly getting into trouble or hold up playing video games when they should be learning life skills and social
interaction. There is nothing productive for them to do in Morrow Co. We need more employment opportunities in Morrow Co. that pay enough to sustain a family. Some that pay more than minimum wage. There is plenty of teen employment but little middle class adult employment; Few job opportunities for those without a college degree, and if there are jobs they are minimum wage jobs.”

**CRAWFORD COUNTY**

In Crawford County thirty-two community partners, including service agencies, elected officials, etc., and clients were surveyed and asked to prioritize the needs for services in the community, from Least Needed to Most Needed. The top results for Most Needed were **Improved Rental Housing Conditions** with 78%, **Improved Owner Occupied Housing Conditions and Homelessness Prevention/Shelters** with 75% each, and **Employment and Work Experience and Access to Alcohol/Substance Abuse Treatment** with 72% each.

Crawford County’s population estimate as of July 1, 2016 was 42,083 citizens with 6,944 or 16.5% living in poverty. The median household income in 2015 dollars was $40,795.

The median year that housing structures were built in Crawford County is 1957 with 47.14% of them being built before 1960. Of those homes that were built before 1960, 56.95% are owner occupied and 46.12% are renter occupied. The median age of the housing in Crawford County along with the housing cost burden causes 25.8% or 4,591 of the homes to be considered substandard housing units.

Substandard housing includes the following conditions:

1) lacking complete plumbing facilities-hot and cold running water, a flushing toilet and a bathtub or shower-of which 38 units do not

2) lacking complete kitchen facilities-a sink with a faucet, a stove or range and a refrigerator-of which 1,285 units do not

3) with 1.01 or more occupants per room of which 132 units do,

4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30%, of which there are 2,401 households and

5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30%, of which there are 2,190 households.

Average rent for Crawford County from 2011-2015 was $631.

In Crawford County there are only 852 HUD assisted housing units or 4% of the 19,948 total housing units for the county. Of those units 326 are Housing Choice Voucher units, 471 are Project-Based Section 8 units, 40 are Section 202 units or supportive housing for the elderly and 15 are Section 811 units or supportive housing for persons with disabilities.

In August 2017 the unemployment rate in Crawford County was 5.6% however the issues are not the number of jobs available, but the extent to which a citizen of the county has to go to get a job. The mean travel time to work for workers 16 years of age and older is 21.6 minutes and 1,039 households do not own a motor vehicle equaling 5.84%. There is no public transportation within the county for employment purposes. High School Graduation rate within the county is 90% however only 21.61% of the population age 25 or older have an Associate’s Degree or higher and only 12.62% of the population age 25 or older have a Bachelor’s Degree or higher, meaning they don’t have the qualifications to meet the demanding job market that is available. The average weekly benefit as of June 2017 was $327 working out to a yearly salary of $17,004 which for a family of 4 works out to less than 75% of the 2017 Federal Poverty Level.
Of the 42,083 citizens in Crawford County, 33,749 are 18 years of age or older and it is estimated that 9,011 or 26.7% drink alcohol excessively. Final 2016 overdose deaths shows 8 citizens passed away.

Currently there is not a Homeless Shelter located within Crawford County. Citizens are often referred to Marion or Richland County Homeless Shelters.

Crawford County rationale for OHCAC Services:

OHCAC has established a working partnership with service agencies to ensure that clients are receiving access to all community resources.

Regular Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a program offered directly from the Ohio Development Services Agency. Customers may receive a one-time credit or voucher to their main heating source. From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 RHEAP helped 1,582 households.

Winter Crisis Program (WCP) is a program designed for a one-time payment for utility bills, bulk fuels, coal, wood or wood pellets. The customer must be income eligible and either have a disconnection notice, be without heating services, or have less than a 10 day supply of bulk fuel. From November 1, 2016 to April 15, 2017 WCP helped 873 households.

Summer Crisis Program (SCP) is a program designed for a one-time payment on your electric bill. Eligibility Requirements are: a member of the household who would medically benefit from assistance verified by a licensed physician or registered nurse practitioner, or seniors age 60 and over who meet the 2017 Poverty Income Guidelines. From July 1, 2017 to September 15, 2017 SCP helped 276 households.

Columbia Gas Fuel Funds (CGFF) is a program designed for a one-time payment on Columbia Gas bills for income eligible clients. In 2017 CGFF helped 41 households.

First Energy Fuel Funds (FEFF) is program designed for a one-time payment on Ohio Edison bills for income eligible clients. In 2017 FEFF helped 5 households.

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) is a program designed for a one-time payment on AEP bills for income eligible clients. In 2017 N2N helped 35 households in Marion, Morrow and Crawford Counties.

Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) helps Ohioans manage their energy costs year round to avoid disconnection. The program allows participants to pay a percentage of their gross income toward their utility bills, instead of the total amount of current charges. The payment is based on a percentage of the household gross income. From July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 PIPP helped 1,900 households.

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) provides financial and technical assistance in the rehabilitation and weatherization of low income owner occupied and renter occupied housing. In 2016 OHCAC HWAP weatherized 64 homes in Marion, Morrow and Crawford Counties.

Electric Partnership Program (EPP) is a program through the State of Ohio that provides services to clients with regulated utilities, such as AEP and First Energy, with replacement of non-energy efficient appliances and light bulbs. In 2016 EPP helped 75 homes in Marion and Crawford Counties.
AEP has their own program that provides the same energy measurements as EPP, but is for only AEP clients. In 2016 AEP helped 53 homes in Marion and Crawford Counties.

Community Connections through First Energy also provides energy measurements similar to EPP for only First Energy clients. In 2016 Community Connections helped 65 homes in Marion and Crawford Counties.

Warm Choice through Columbia Gas also provides energy measurements for only Columbia Gas customers. In 2016 Warm Choice helped 1 home in Crawford County.

Ohio Fuel Funds (OFF) is program designed for a one-time payment on Ohio Edison bills for income eligible clients. In 2016 OFF helped 565 households in Marion, Crawford and Morrow Counties.

The OHCAC Crawford Center paid out in 2016 $5,455.00 for rental assistance and as of September 29, 2017 we have paid out $2,192.00.

Comments and Concerns from our Crawford County surveyed clients included: “Access to services. A client told me it takes “An act of Congress” to get an appointment for energy assistance with Community Action; Barriers regarding stigma towards mental health help, bullying & cyberbullying; Financial Education.”

The programs and assistance offered by OHCAC cannot meet every customer’s needs. OHCAC County Offices provide intake and referral services for a variety of client needs. They refer clients within Agency programming as well as to outside agencies to ensure that clients have access to all available programs. OHCAC is always willing to cooperate and partner with other agencies. In our service area OHCAC has working relationships with the Salvation Army, Job and Family Services, churches, school systems, for-profit companies, fraternal organizations, foundations, boards, United Ways, Boy Scouts, postal employees, non-profit agencies, Chambers of Commerce, and elected officials. In addition to directly assisting shared customers, some of these groups sponsor food drives, donate funds, and provide space. Those relationships allow the county offices to assist customers in meeting their basic needs and to enjoy a lifestyle that includes safe housing, adequate food, and the means to maintain it. All office staff have an excellent rapport with staff from other agencies. The Executive Director, Deputy Director, and the Marion/Morrow County and Crawford County Center Directors are members of several organizations and boards in Marion, Crawford and Morrow Counties.

OHCAC has always looked for opportunities to expand programming and services to assist low income residents. We believe that Community Action cannot and should not be static.

The agency leaders strive to seek opportunities and develop programming to better our communities. One goal of OHCAC is to assist the customers we serve to improve their situations and expand the resources that are available to them.

Information was also obtained from www.kff.org; U.S. Census Bureau 2016 Quick Facts for Crawford, Marion and Morrow County; Community Commons website; Ohio Department of Job and Family Services QuickView website; Social Security Administration; SearchRx.com and Ohio Homeless Shelter Directory.
SUMMARY/KEY FINDINGS OF OHCAC PROGRAMMING
ADDRESSING AREAS IDENTIFIED IN THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Energy programs: HWAP, EPP, AEP, Warm Choice, and Community Connections. These programs operated by OHCAC in Marion, Crawford and Morrow Counties are intended to increase household income by reducing the energy burden on the households of low to moderate income residents. **Goal:** to reduce housing costs and provide minor home repair, furnace and appliance replacement over an extended and continuing period of time.

2. Galion Food Pantry: Provision of emergency food for CSBG eligible households. Provided food includes canned goods, packaged meals, meat, fresh vegetables as available, bread and dairy through food cards at local grocery store. The Program partners with local churches and grocery stores. **Goal:** To provide emergency food for low income households in Galion up to 4 times per year.

3. Crawford County Clothing Outlet: Serves all OHCAC counties in a central location providing clothing for all program participants, including school uniforms, donated winter coats (from Burlington), and summer and winter work attire. **Goal:** To assist families as needed providing school clothing, initial work clothing, winter coats.

4. Senior Meals for Marion County: Serves and delivers 80 hot meals daily to homebound seniors in Marion County while observing the overall wellbeing/health of the recipient. **Goal:** To maintain seniors in their residences as long as possible and minimize healthcare costs.

5. Fatherhood Programming in all counties: Working in conjunction with community, public, and private resources to assist fathers and prior offenders to obtain employment and face the numerous problems associated with re-entry. This program addresses the ongoing problem of re-entry for prior offenders that is pertinent in all counties, but particularly Marion County. **Goal:** to do casework with up to 20 fathers assisting with employment, legal, housing and social needs according to individual circumstances.

6. The Backpack program in Galion and Crawford County: The provision of weekend food for low income children (similar to the daily lunch program) in Galion, Ohio for between 50-75 children per week and the coordination with similar programs for referral in Bucyrus and Marion. Program partners and supporters include United Way, volunteers (packing and delivering meals), schools, and churches. **Goal:** To insure the provision of weekend meals to low income children in Galion (direct service) and Bucyrus and Marion (referral) for up to 75 children per week.

7. Personal Needs pantry (Morrow and Marion County): Provides personal items including deodorant, tooth paste, tooth brushes, razors, shaving cream, personnel hygiene items, shampoo, soap (bar and powder) to low income residents of Morrow County. Pantry provides for a void that had existed with the various food pantries in Morrow County. Supporters include local churches, local donors, and grocery and outlet stores. **Goal:** To provide for the items that the existing food pantries in Morrow and Marion County were not meeting serving 200 households annually in Morrow and 100 households annually in Marion.

8. Head Start Transportation: Providing daily Head Start pre-school transportation 128 days per year to over 800 Head Start enrolled children in a 4-county area with over 300 households served in Marion County. School transportation is identified as a need by the needs assessment survey. By the provision of transportation, OHCAC is able to serve the neediest households that have identified transportation
challenges. **Goal:** To provide daily pre-school transportation to 800 households daily in the OHCAC Head Start service area.

9. The provision of EFSP (formerly FEMA) assistance as needed in Marion and Crawford Counties. OHCAC is a continuing member of the FEMA Boards in Marion and Crawford County (32 years). In this position, OHCAC provides the following services utilizing EFSP funding: housing assistance (rent/mortgage) in Marion County and utility and food assistance in Crawford County. **Goal:** To provide the identified community need for EFSP services in Marion and Crawford Counties as EFSP funds are available.

10. **VITA Program:** Income Tax assistance is provided for residents of Marion, Morrow, and Crawford Counties. The program operates chiefly out of the Marion Center during the tax preparation season. It serves up to 300 local low to moderate income households with tax return service while insuring that all eligible benefits are received. **Goal:** Assisting up to 300 central Ohio households to obtain complete and accurate income tax returns including the full benefits of the low income tax credit.

11. **Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Prevention (DAAP) of Morrow County:** Works with the four county schools on prevention of drug abuse among teens and works with the community and parents on ways to recognize and deter drug abuse. Intervention, Prevention and Treatment is the goal.

12. **ID Program:** Allows men and women in Marion and Morrow County who are seeking employment through a Temporary Agency to overcome the barrier of not have proper documentation to confirm their identity, by providing them gift certificates to purchase their Birth Certificate and/or State I.D.. In 2016 Marion helped 12 individuals and 2 so far in 2017. Morrow County helped 8 individuals in 2016 and so far 3 in 2017.

13. OHCAC realizes that it does not have the resources to successfully address the myriad of issues that confront the low income population of Marion, Crawford and Morrow Counties. With this in mind, OHCAC staff are at the committee table for numerous action groups in Marion, Crawford and Morrow Counties, including:

- **Joe Devany** – Youth and Family Council Morrow County, Metro-Transit Committee Marion County, OPAE all counties, EFSP Board Marion and Crawford Counties, OACAA Board all counties;
- **Tracey Rector** – Continuum of Care, Marion Community Services Committee, Marion Matters, Habitat for Humanity, Safety City, Marion County Extension Advisory Board, EFSP Local Board, Morrow Kiwanis, Morrow County Community Services Committee, Morrow County JFS Advisory Board;
- **Ashley Glass** – DAAP Coordinator, Engage Facilitator, FCFC Morrow County;
- **Karen Wise** – Dream Child Conference, Central District HWAP;
- **Tammy Crabtree** – Galion Betterment Committee, Crawford Community Council; Kiwanis of Galion, Crawford County WIC Advisory Board, Galion/Crestline Chamber of Commerce, Home Care Matters Advisory Board;
- **Liz Feliciano-Deeter** – Metro Housing Board, Marion Area Administrative Professionals, Marion League of Women Voters (up-coming membership), Habitat for Humanity Volunteer, Ohio Health/Marion General Hospital Volunteer: member of TWIG III and TWIG V (current TWIG V 11
president), Marion Area Small Business Network, Marion Popcorn Festival Fundraising Committee, Local Elks Lodge 32;

**Goal:** To work with community resources to assist those of need in all areas in all counties served by OHCAC.