

Community

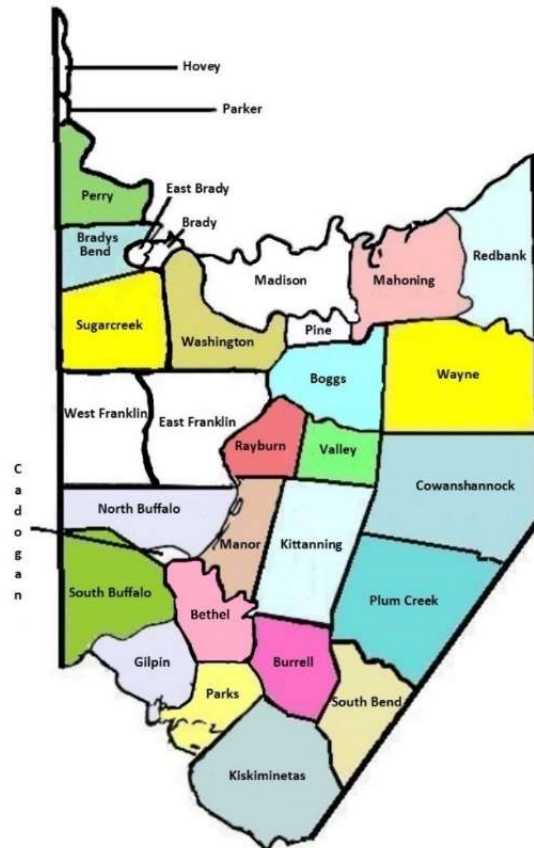
Needs Assessment & Strategic Plan

Armstrong County, PA

2021-2033

Prepared by

Armstrong County Community Action Agency



Armstrong County Community Action Agency

2021-2023

Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Board Chairperson & Executive Director	Page 1
Mission Statement	Page 2
Executive Summary	Pages 3-7
Introduction & Agency History	Pages 7-10
Demographics of Armstrong County	Pages 10-25
Part I - Basic Human Needs	Pages 26-62
General Population Survey Results	Pages 63-76
Strategic Plan	Pages 77-101
Copy of General Population Survey	



To Our County Community Action Friends, Program Participants, and Community Stakeholders:

Armstrong County Community Action Agency's strategic plan follows the guidelines set forth by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. Our plan describes the process that was carried out using needs assessment methods and survey instruments. The goal for the initial phase of a needs assessment was to collect and analyze data identifying the needs in our rural county. Also highlighted were the population demographics and the relevant economic and social conditions. By using this information, the Armstrong County Community Action Agency Board of Directors delineates the major issues, problems, and needs within the service area and the strategies that will be used to address these needs by our agency.

As a condition for funding in accordance with the legislation governing the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Community Action develops and implements a three-year Community Action Plan covering three fiscal years. Our FY 2021-2023 Community Action Plan, including a County-Wide Needs Assessment and our Strategic plan involves:

- The service delivery system targeting people with low incomes in Armstrong County, PA;
- Our linkages and how they are developed locally to fill identified gaps in services through information, referral, intensive case management, and follow-up, as well as developing new and enhancing existing collaborative services;
- Coordination of CSBG funding provided by the CSBG Act with other public & private sources;
- Use of funds to support innovative community-based initiatives related to the purpose of CSBG while relating to the needs identified in the Community-wide Needs Assessment.

In summation, our Community Action Plan which contains the Community-Wide Needs Assessment Information and our Strategic Plan provide us with a three-year road map to guide the agency in meeting our Mission. We would like to thank the countless number of people who answered surveys, our dedicated staff, many community collaborators and stakeholders, our Board of Directors, and especially the Strategic Planning Committee of the Board for their dedication to this endeavor. Throughout this planning process, we were happy to hear the validation that our Community Action Agency is a great place to work and that the services we provide are vital and essential to the disadvantaged population we serve in Armstrong County.

Crystal D. Jack
Executive Director

Donald H. Toy
Chairperson, Board of Directors

Vision Mission & Values

MISSION STATEMENT

The Armstrong County Community Action Agency’s mission is “To plan, develop and serve as an incubator for programs that will assist the low-income and working poor individuals and families within Armstrong County, and surrounding areas, to achieve self-sufficiency.”

Our agency is passionately committed to providing dynamic pathways to self-sustainability for the low-income individuals and families through advocacy, education, case management and identifying resources that can help them meet their basic human needs. With our collaborative partners, resources, and strength based leadership, we coordinate and mobilize comprehensive training and technical assistance vital to building and sustaining an enriched community. We strive to assist the low-income and disadvantaged population of Armstrong County, of all ages, on a daily basis, in order to improve their lives and achieve our mission. Our ultimate goal is to lead these individuals and families to self-sufficiency, lessening their dependence on governmental programs and to become productive members of society.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It would be an ideal world if poverty did not exist in our everyday lives. But, the war against poverty continues for all the Community Action Agencies nationwide as we assist the low-income and working poor clientele that we serve. Because of this, we must occasionally step back to review what has worked in the past and assess those programs that we operate. We also must take the pulse of those we serve to have a better idea of the direction we must plan on taking in the future. This needs assessment is an attempt to do just that.

The Armstrong County Community Action Agency has used two approaches in this needs assessment to gather information that is vital in setting our course for the future. First of all, we have gathered census and program data which helps to show need in specific areas. We have made an attempt to gather the most up to date data that is available. In every instance, the time and source of this data is given. Graphs and charts have been made to easily understand the meaning of the data.

The second system that we used in gathering data for this needs assessment was to provide surveys for our clients. This General Population survey was used to poll Armstrong County residents as to what they felt our County should prioritize, and then how they and their household was affected by numerous challenges. County residents also answered questions pertaining to how they felt our Agency was doing in its' work. The ACCAA was able to tabulate 169 survey responses. The surveys were done in two ways. A paper survey was handed out to residents of the County and clients to our Agency. These 157 surveys were then hand tabulated. In addition, the agency posted the same General Population Survey on-line so that anyone could answer the questions. The ACCAA advertised the availability of the survey and a link to respond. A total number of 12 residents answered the on-line survey. These surveys were computer tallied. Both tallies were then added together.

The needs assessment was divided into a number of parts. The first part was a message from the Executive Director and Board Chairperson, the Agency's mission statement, this Executive Summary, and an introduction and history of our Agency and Armstrong County. The introduction includes general poverty statistics and other information that sits outside of the purview of the next three sections of the Assessment, Basic Human Needs, Self-Sufficiency. Needs, and Advocacy, Resources, and Growth. Core demographic census data, as well as other pertinent information, was woven into the narrative of these next three sections as it was in the Introduction section.

The next part of this needs assessment was titled Basic Human Needs. These basic needs consist of food, shelter, and health care. It was the feeling of both staff and the ACCAA Board of Directors that those programs that address the basic needs of all people should be prioritized. Based upon the theory of the American psychologist Abraham Harold Maslov, it is difficult for any person to progress in life and to obtain self-actualization (realizing personal potential and

self-fulfillment), without first achieving biological and physiological needs like air, food, water, shelter, warmth, sleep etc. Everyone should have the right to basic human needs.

The next section of the needs assessment deals with areas that will assist clients in obtaining self-actualization as well as self-sufficiency in their daily lives. We called this section, appropriately, Self-sufficiency Needs. Areas addressed in this section were employment, education, and transportation. Basic Human Needs as well as Self-sufficiency Needs make up the preponderance of programming for the Armstrong County Community Action Agency.

Following the Self-Sufficiency needs section was the Advocacy, Resources, and Growth section. This part of the Needs Assessment deals with statistics in areas of Armstrong County life that the Armstrong County Community Action Agency has traditionally had little direct influence upon. Included in this section are statistics on crime and senior citizens. Senior citizens are, of course, impacted upon by many of the programs that the ACCAA operates. For the most part, however, the ACCAA does not have direct programming for seniors, as this is responsibility of the Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging. Crime severely affects anyone who has been impacted directly or indirectly. Once again, there are other agencies better suited to handle crime such as all law enforcement and the courts. There are other agencies that provide services to victim of crime and substance abuse such as Armstrong County's abused victim's shelter, HAVIN, the Armstrong, Indiana, Clarion Drug & Alcohol Commission and ARC Manor. Another area for which we did not gather a lot of statistics deals with behavioral health and intellectual disabilities due to other agencies concentrating on this, such as Armstrong/Indiana Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities, Family Counseling, etc.

As has already been mentioned, the Needs Assessment includes a General Population survey. We will try in this Executive Summary to highlight those responses that we feel are the most important to mention, as they help to prove the various needs in our community. The entire General Population Survey Results can be found later in this document.

The first question in the General Population Survey asked the public to prioritize fourteen issues. Ratings were a one for low priority, 2 for medium priority, and a 3 for high priority. It was interesting to see that for all of the categories, people tended to list the areas as a high priority as opposed to a low. The highest priority listed in the survey was "Improve service to veterans". Below is the listing of the fourteen areas ranked from highest to lowest:

1.	Improve service to veterans	2.60
2.	Improve access to basic needs (food and shelter)	2.43
3/4/5.	Improve senior citizen services	2.40
3/4/5.	Expand job opportunities	2.40
3/4/5.	Increase services for domestic or sexual assault victims	2.40

6.	Increase wage of workers	2.36
7.	Improve housing for residents	2.34
8.	Improve health care availability	2.32
9.	Improve drug and alcohol treatment services	2.25
10.	Improving public transportation	2.21
11.	Improve childrens education	2.18
12.	Improve youth recreational programs	2.16
13.	Expand adult education/training	2.06
14.	Expand resources for family unit	2.05

Much of the General Population Survey then went in more depth upon 10 issues. They are: Transportation, Housing, Employment, Health Care, Adult Education/Training, Senior Citizen issues, Children’s Education, Youth, Basic Needs, and COVID-19. The questions wanted to know if the respondents to the survey, or a member of his household, had experienced any of the issues in the last 2 years. The answers could be: Never, Occasionally, or Often. When finding the top ten issues from all of the categories, the following was the ranking in percentages of those people answering either occasionally or often.

1	78.5%	Difficulty affording food
2	72.0%	Difficulty finding transportation for needed services
3	70.1%	Did not have transportation to training/education
4	68.4%	Limited access to a reliable vehicle
5/6	65.6%	Difficulty affording car maintenance
5/6	65.6%	Had difficulty affording prescriptions
7/8	63.6%	Difficulty affording car insurance
7/8	63.6%	Difficulty affording public transportation
9	60.5%	Could not afford to pay medical bills
10	56.3%	Unable to afford heating and other utilities

When ranking the entire 10 areas surveyed in the questionnaire, the results looked like this:

1	2.11	Health Care Challenges
2	1.92	Transportation Challenges
3	1.66	Basic Needs Challenges
4	1.63	Employment Challenges
5	1.60	Adult Education Challenges
6	1.51	Housing Challenges
7/8	1.46	Senior Citizens Challenges
7/8	1.40	Youth Challenges
9	1.39	COVID-19 Challenges
10	1.25	Children’s Education Challenges

Remember, that the above rankings are based upon whether the person answering the survey, and/or his household, has experienced any of the problem areas in the last two years.

In an effort to gauge the general population on evaluative principals for the Armstrong County Community Action Agency, a number of questions were asked on the General Population Survey. One question the General Population Survey wanted to know was how people felt about various segments of our County’s population in being able to receive services that they may need. Question 16 asked, “In general, how would you rate the overall QUALITY OF SERVICES available to the following groups of people in our community?”

	Poor	Fair	Good	Do Not Know
Children and Youth	0	18	61	90
Senior Citizen	10	12	31	116
Low income individuals and families	0	18	43	108
Persons with physical disabilities	3	41	8	117
Persons w mental/intellectual disabilities	0	30	12	127
Veterans	6	29	13	121
Families	1	27	19	122
Single parents	0	14	29	126
Employees	0	2	2	167
Women	0	12	78	79

The survey then wanted to find out how many of the responders had used Armstrong County Community Action Services. Question 14 asked, “How frequently have you or your family had assistance from the local Community Action Agency in the last 2 years?” It is interesting, 66.5% of those that answered this question, had used Agency services at least once in the last two years and 21%, said they used ACCAA services twice or more.

In an effort to judge the satisfaction of the services that the clients received from the ACCAA, question 15 was asked, “If you have received assistance from the local Community Action Agency, how satisfied were you with the services provided?”. Twenty-eight respondents said that they were not satisfied with ACCAA services. This represents a little over 20% since only 137 people decided to answer this question. With that in mind, there were 48 people, or 35% who were either satisfied or very satisfied.

It will be the task of Armstrong County Community Action Staff, Strategic Planning Committee, and Board of Directors to take the information gathered in this Needs Assessment and utilize it in a way that allows our Agency to envision our programming for the future. This we will attempt to do in our Strategic Plan that can be found at the end of this document.

As a final thought, the Agency would like to show our appreciation and thank everyone who had a hand in any part of this Needs Assessment, especially those participants who took their time to answer our surveys. Without their assistance, this document would not be possible. It takes everyone working together to develop a valuable assessment tool for Armstrong County.



Introduction and Agency History

Introduction

The Armstrong County Community Action Agency (ACCAA) has combined the Community-Wide Needs Assessment and the Strategic Plan into one comprehensive document called the Community Action Plan. The Community Needs Assessment involved three distinct levels of effort in three different sections: *Part 1 - Profile of Basic Needs*; *Part 2 - Profile of Self-Sufficiency*; and *Part 3 - Advocacy, Growth and Resources*. Through this community assessment process, Part 1 identifies different facets of basic human needs that we should concentrate our efforts in order to help the low-income population have quality of life. Part 2

contains information on the needs that the low-income population have and what needs to be undertaken in order to assist them on their way to self-sufficiency. Part 3 represents important societal needs that have been identified in our county that other agencies are mandated to provide services for and are better equipped to manage. Our agency continues to advocate in these areas and collaborate with the agencies delineated for these services.

Ultimately, our 2021-2023 Community Action Plan, is the comprehensive multi-year planning document that assists us in figuring out what road we should take in assisting the low-income population. The Community Action Plan will allow ACCAA leadership to: (1) Understand the scope of both emerging and ongoing needs of economically insecure residents in the community; (2) Choose the role the organization will play in meeting those needs; (3) Identify economic resources, social resources, and partnership opportunities in the community that can help meet the needs; (4) Educate community residents and leaders about the identified needs and provide input on policies and strategies; and (5) Explain to the community the rationale behind decisions that prioritize needs and allocate resources. Our Community Action Plan is a bird's eye view of the overall needs identified in Armstrong County, PA and our plan of attack.

History

Born out of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty and authorized under the United States Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the Armstrong County Community Action Agency became registered as a non-profit corporation with the Pennsylvania Department of State on March 22, 1965. As was listed on the original Articles of Incorporation, the purpose of the agency was, and still strives, "to mobilize and utilize resources, public and private, embracing the entire County of Armstrong in an attack on poverty; and to provide services, assistance, and other activities of sufficient scope and size as to give promise of progress toward elimination of poverty or the causes of poverty through developing employment opportunities, improving human performance, motivation and productivity, and bettering the conditions under which people live, learn, and work." We continue, fifty-six years later, to work towards these same goals throughout Armstrong County.

As a result of the War on Poverty initiative, a network of Community Action Agencies sprang up all over the country to alleviate the impact of poverty at the local level and to support people with low incomes to improve the quality of their lives. One of our first programs under the ACCAA umbrella was the Head Start Program serving preschool children ages 3-5 years, for four summers beginning in 1965. It became a full year program in 1969. As the needs of the county changed over the years and new funding opportunities became available, our agency rose to the occasion to meet the needs of our low-income residents by providing vital services.

While ACCAA continues to provide services to our county residents, it stands as fiscally solvent and effective in administering programs according to State and Federal regulations. Our agency is recognized by the Armstrong County Commissioners as the lead human service agency in the county, one that acts as an incubator for new county programs, as well as being the firm foundation for many others. Our Community Action Agency is funded through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development designated by the Office of Community Services of the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Armstrong County Community Action Agency has an annual budget of over \$9 million, mostly funded by State and Federal monies, and has approximately 33 employees. The agency provides over 20,000 instances of its diversified services, on a yearly basis, to Armstrong County residents. The agency is fiscally sound and ensures compliance in all of our agency's programs assisting families to improve their circumstances, reduce government dependence, and assist them to become self-sufficient productive members of society. As the administrative entity for all of our programs, ACCAA has demonstrated a sound record of administering over forty programs and providing various services to county residents.

The Armstrong County Community Action Agency has a fifteen member tri-partite board of directors. This board is composed equally of one-third representatives of the low-income community, one-third public officials, and one-third comprised of the business and community organizations. The ACCAA Board of Directors is the governing body that takes an active role in the agency, overseeing agency activities. They wholeheartedly support the programs that we administer in assisting the disadvantaged population in our county.

ACCAA has been an umbrella multi-purpose agency, since 1965, and has grown over the years to include more than thirty programs that serve the working poor, underemployed, unemployed and disadvantaged persons in Armstrong County. Over the last fifty-six years, we have delivered many services to the income eligible clients through our programs, transforming lives, one at a time. We serve as a viable one-stop-shop for persons who have more than one service need and have many barriers to overcome in their lives. The numerous departments under ACCAA continue to coordinate their efforts in-house, as well as with other organizations, to provide the most cost effective service possible to our residents in an ailing economy that has seen many budgetary cutbacks.

Under the ACCAA agency umbrella, we deliver our services include the Housing Assistance Programs, Emergency Solutions Grant Program, Supportive Services for Veteran Families, and Homeless Assistance Programs. Also included are Utility Assistance Programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medical Assistance Transportation Program, Weatherization and several programs for Energy Education, Energy Conservation, etc. There is also a Driver's Education and Training Program, PHARE (Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement), ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program), CSBG (Community Service Block Grant) Cares Program and SOR (Support Services Navigation & Housing Services for Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder). With the availability of all of these services at our agency as a one-stop-shop, it proves to be very convenient for our clients by reducing the need for transportation to and from multiple sites to receive services. It also provides direct contact with multiple program personnel working in various programs under one roof.

Our agency has been long designated by the Armstrong County Commissioners, as the lead human service agency for social services in Armstrong County. We have capable and experienced grant writing staff to apply for grants, in behalf of the County of Armstrong, to procure human services for our residents. Our agency's Central Administration Staff provides the overall leadership, policy guidance, coordination, and support necessary to successfully manage a comprehensive collection of over Thirty programs to assist the low-income population.

This Community Action Plan, which includes the Community-Wide Needs Assessment and the Agency Strategic Plan, identifies the needs of the low income population from our service area, as well as an internal evaluation of the agency's function in the community. A

Strategic Planning Committee was and continues to be instrumental in this process. Stakeholder groups have been consulted while delineating these needs and developing the overall plan. We heard from the staff, other organizations, and hundreds of community residents, including the low income whom we collected data from. We researched many sources of information highlighting our region and combined it with the analyzed data collected from responses from two different surveys completed by community organizations, and the general population.

Our Community Action Plan for 2021-2023 is simply a “slice-in-time” of a dynamic process that continues all year round, every year; assessment and planning do not stop with the publication of this multi-year planning document. As conditions in our communities change, we will adjust the routes that we take to reach the goals we have set for ourselves, realizing that we may need to make adjustments or establish new goals. We are confident that the initial set of goals and activities laid out in this document will result in enhanced services for our participants, productive outcomes for them, and a clearer delineated path for all of us to follow.

Population and Demographic Data of Armstrong County

Report Area	Total Population, ACS 2015-19	Total Population, 2010 Census	Population Change from 2010-2019	Percent Change from 2010-2019
Armstrong County, PA	65,867	68,941	-3,074	-4.46%
Pennsylvania	12,791,530	12,702,379	89,151	0.7%
United States	324,697,795	307,745,539	16,952,256	5.51%

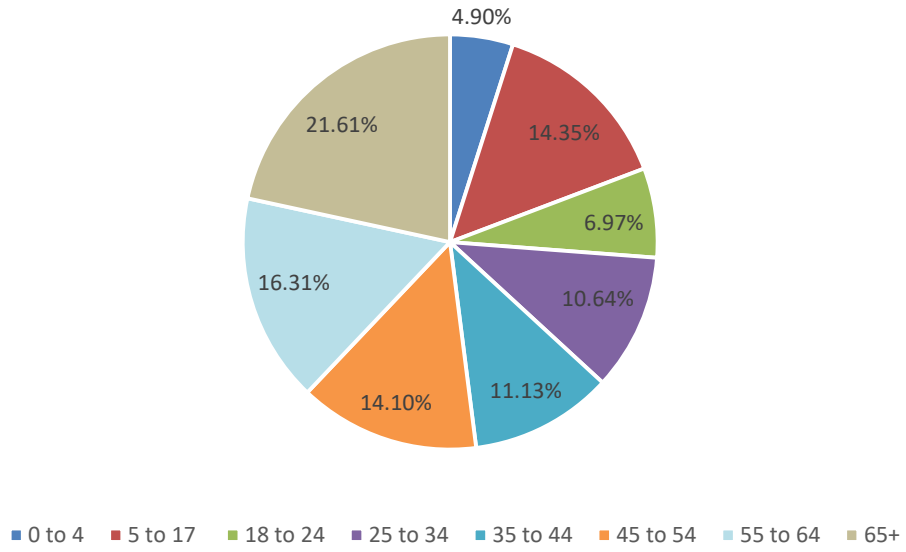
Data Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19*

Total Population by Age

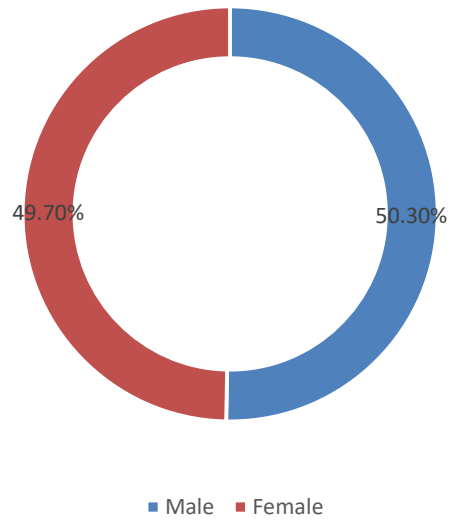
Report Area	AGE 0 to 4	AGE 5 to 17	AGE 18 to 24	AGE 25 to 34	AGE 35 to 44	AGE 45 to 54	AGE 55 to 64	AGE 65+
Armstrong County, PA	3,225	9,454	4,588	7,006	7,328	9,285	10,745	14,236
PA	706,563	1,955,828	1,174,907	1,680,907	1,493,904	1,692,870	1,804,831	2,181,720
United States	19,767,670	53,661,722	30,646,327	45,030,415	40,978,831	42,072,620	41,756,414	50,783,796

Data Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019.*

Percent of Age Demographics



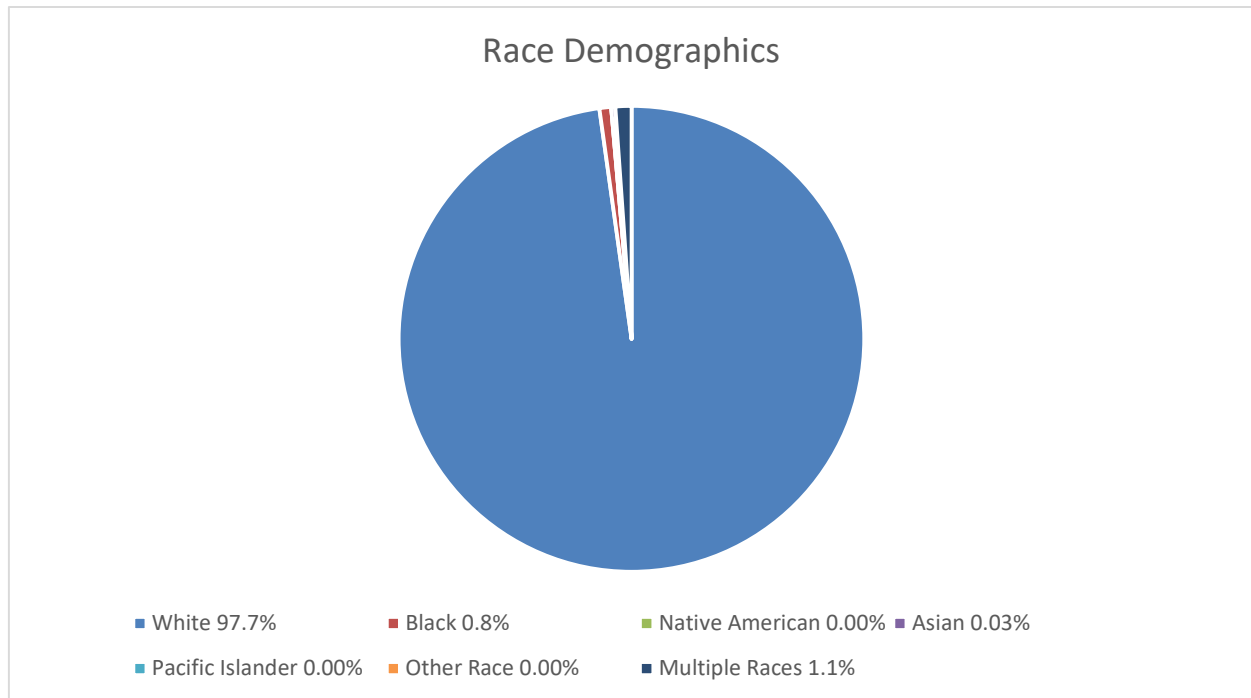
Total Population by Gender



Race Demographics

Report Area	White Total	Black Total	Native American Total	Asian Total	Pacific Islander Total	Some Other Race	Mixed Race Total
Armstrong County, PA	64,325	548	26	201	0	34	733
Pennsylvania	10,300,602	1,430,664	24,691	436,324	4,198	275,177	319,874
United States	235,377,662	41,234,642	2,750,143	17,924,209	599,868	16,047,369	10,763,902

Data Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County*



Hispanic Population

Report Area	Total Population	Non-Hispanic Population	Percent Population Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino Population	Percent Population Hispanic or Latino
Armstrong County, PA	65,867	65,358	99.23%	509	0.77%
Pennsylvania	12,791,530	11,856,314	92.69%	935,216	7.31%
United States	324,697,795	266,218,425	81.99%	58,479,370	18.01%

Data Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.*

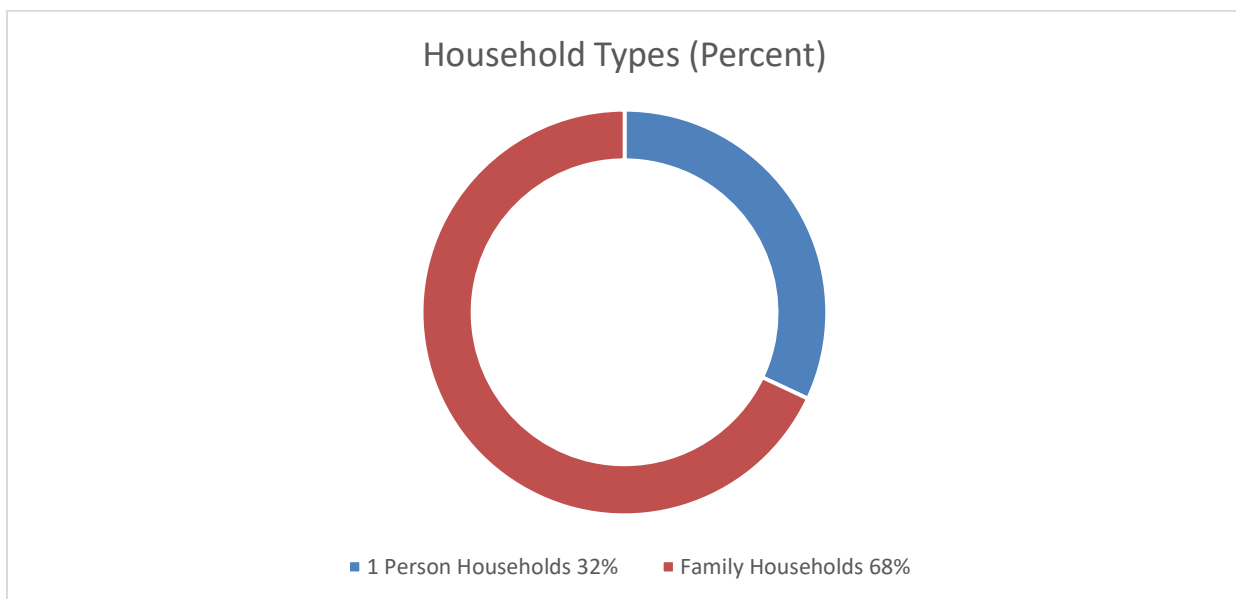
Household Types

Report Area	Total Households	1 Person Household	Family Households
Armstrong County, PA	29,095	9,341	19,754
Pennsylvania	5,119,249	1,543,550	3,575,699

Data Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019.*

Household Types (Percent)

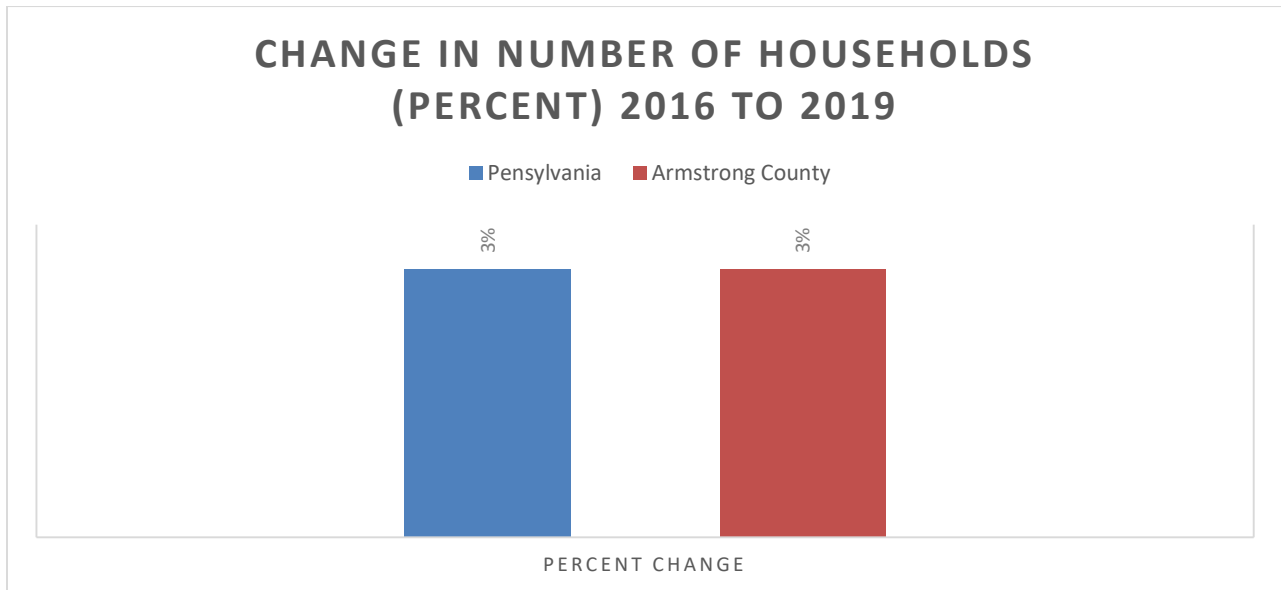
Report Area	Total Households	1 Person Household	Family Households
Armstrong County, PA	29,095	32%	68%
Pennsylvania	5,119,249	30%	70%



Change in the Number of Households

Report Area	Total Households (2016)	Total Households (2019)	Change in Households	Percent Change
Armstrong County, PA	28,250	29,095	845	3%
Pennsylvania	4,961,929	5,119,249	157,320	3%

Data Source: [US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019](#).



Citizenship Status

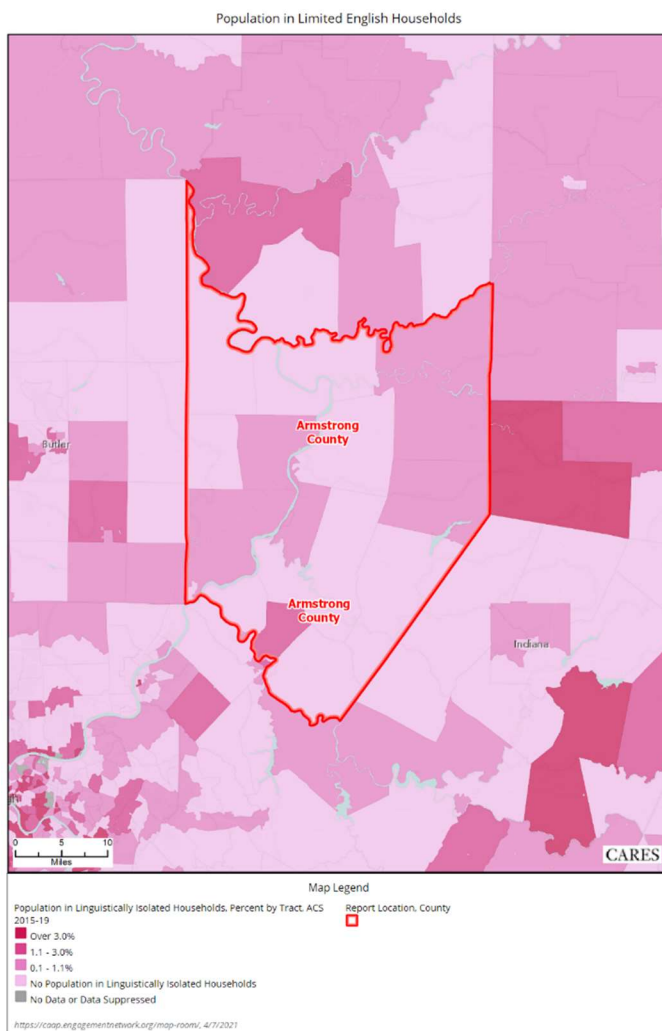
Report Area	U.S. Citizen	Not a U.S. Citizen	Citizen Percent	Non-Citizen Percent
Armstrong County, PA	64,453	282	99.56%	0.44%
Pennsylvania	12,406,248	395,741	96.91%	3.09%
United States	306,489,539	21,749,984	93.37%	6.63%

Data Source: data.census.gov

Population in Limited English Households.

Report Area	Total Population Age 5 +	Population Age 5+ with Limited English Proficiency	Population Age 5+ with Limited English Proficiency, Percent
Armstrong County, PA	62,642	442	0.71%
Pennsylvania	12,084,967	522,261	4.32%
United States	304,930,125	25,615,365	8.40%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.

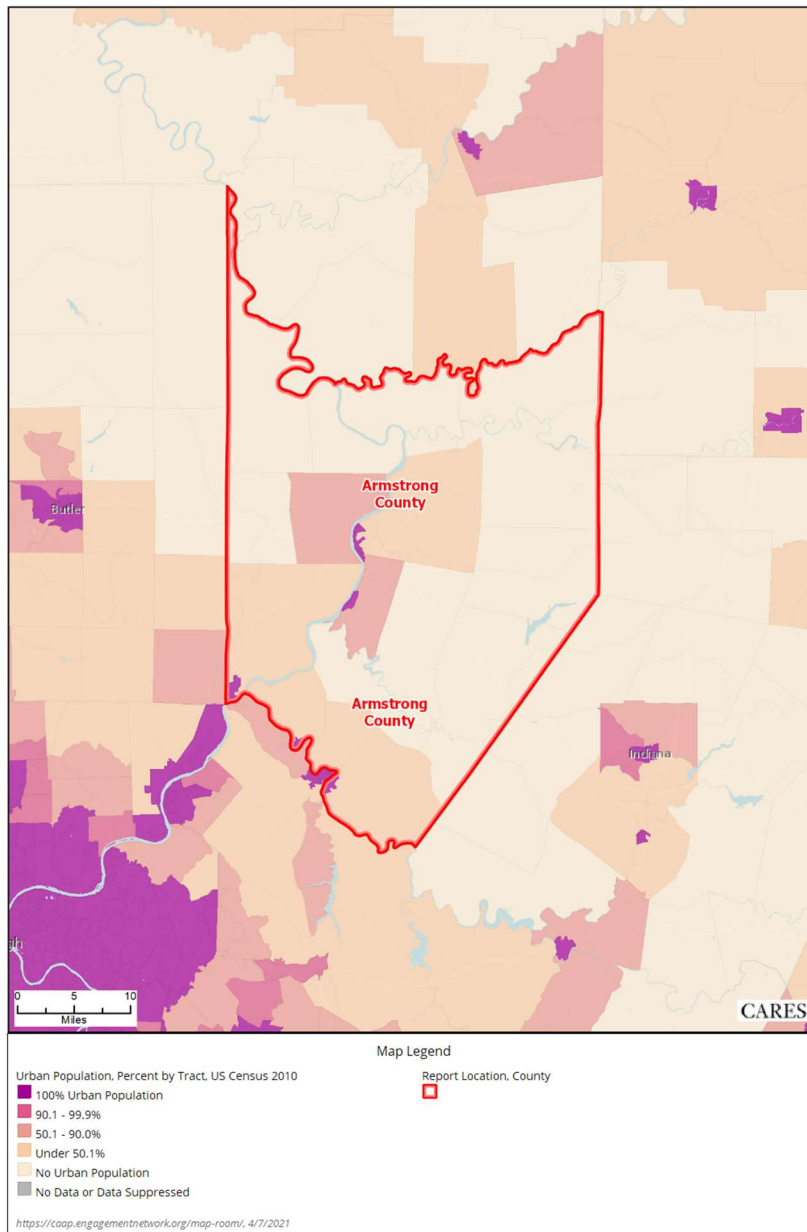


Urban and Rural Population

Report Area	Total Population	Urban Population	Rural Population	Percent Urban	Percent Rural
Armstrong County, PA	68,941	22,415	46,526	32.51%	67.49%
Pennsylvania	12,702,379	9,991,287	2,711,092	78.66%	21.34%
United States	312,471,327	252,746,527	59,724,800	80.89%	19.11%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. 2010. Source geography: Tract

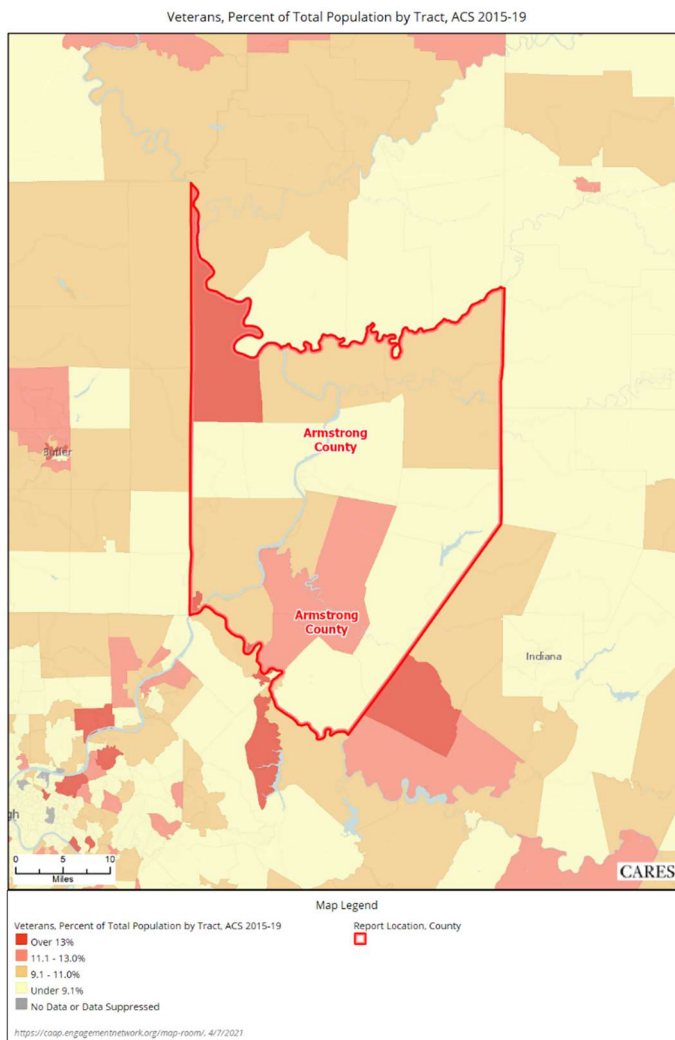
Urban Population, Percent by Tract, US Census 2010



Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics

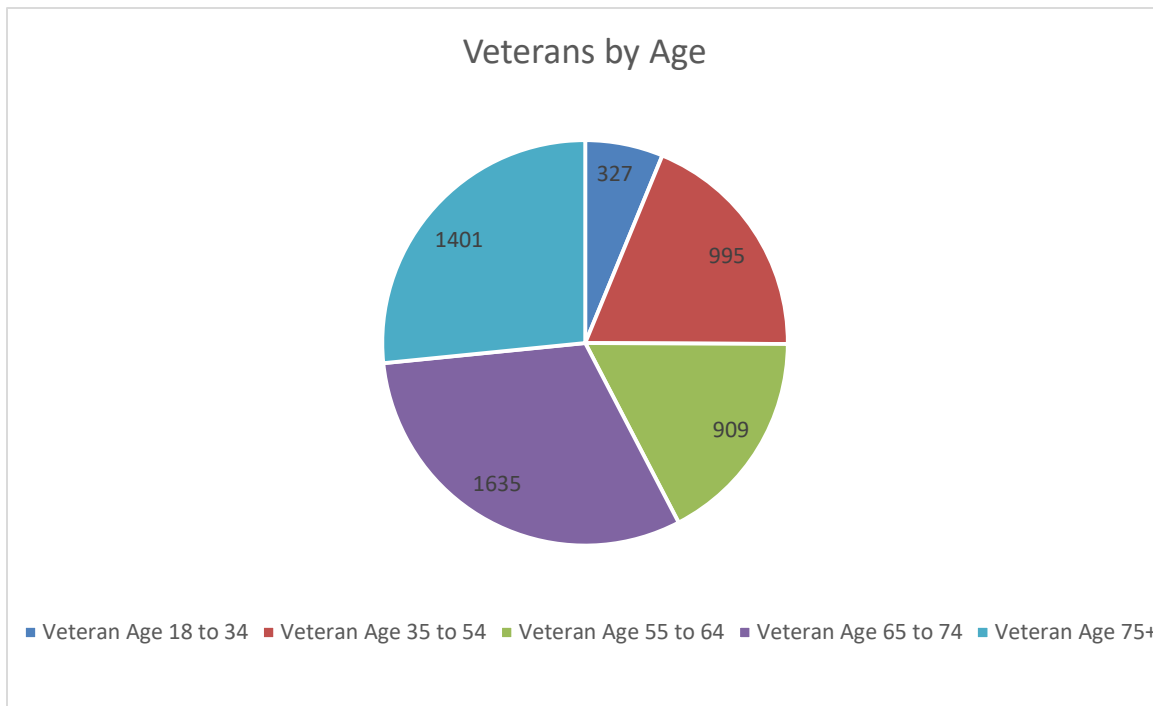
Report Area	Veterans Total	Veterans Male	Veterans Female	% Pop over 18 Total	% Pop over 18 Males	% Pop over 18 Females
Armstrong County, PA	5,267	5,038	229	9.91%	19.17%	0.85%
Pennsylvania	759,474	708,046	51,428	7.50%	14.46%	0.98%
United States	18,230,322	16,611,283	1,619,039	7.29%	13.86%	1.26%

Data Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-19.*



Veterans by Age

Report Area	Veteran Age 18-34	Veteran Age 35-54	Veteran Age 55-64	Veteran Age 65-74	Veteran Age Over 75
Armstrong County	327	995	909	1,635	1,401
PA	49,244	154,330	126,173	216,083	213,644
U.S.	1,609,388	4,281,826	3,251,828	4,811,798	4,275,482

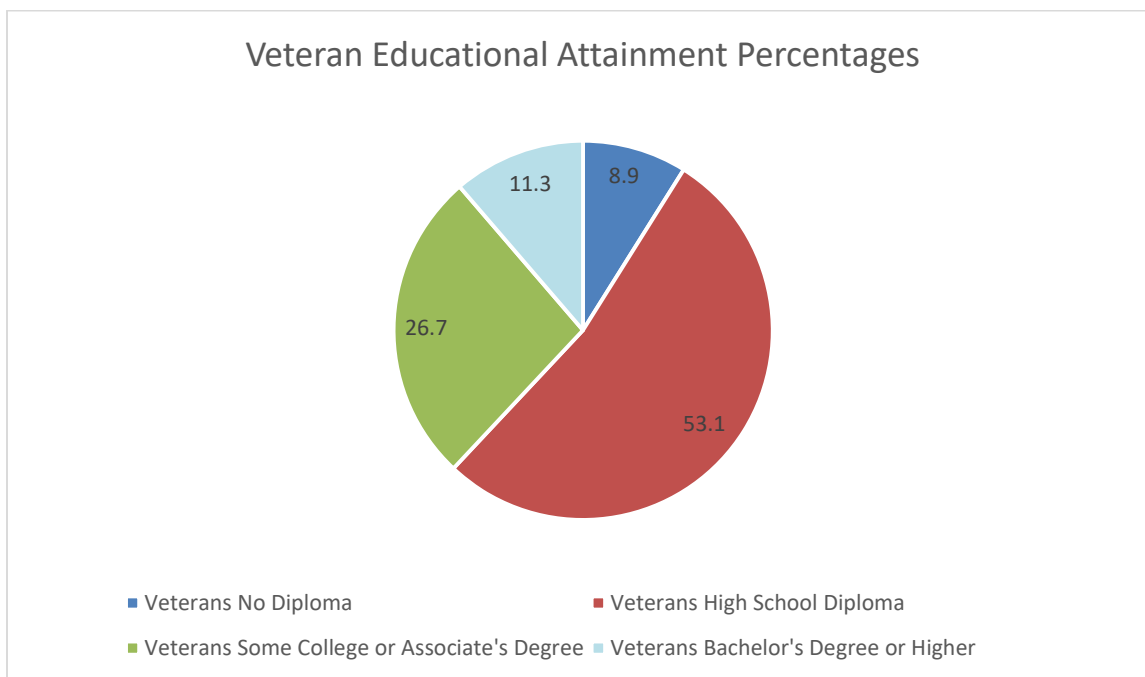


Veterans - Educational Attainment

Report Area	Veterans % No Diploma	Veterans % High School Diploma	Veterans % Some College Diploma	Veterans % Bachelors or Higher Diploma	Non-Veterans % No Diploma	Non-Veterans % High School Diploma	Non-Veterans % Some College Diploma	Non-Veterans % Bachelors or Higher Diploma
Armstrong County, PA	8.9%	53.1%	26.7%	11.3%	9.8%	48.5%	24.3%	17.4%
Pa	7.2%	40.6%	29.4%	22.8%	9.7%	34.2%	23.9%	32.2%
United States	5.9%	28.0%	37.3%	28.8%	12.6%	26.9%	28.1%	32.4%

Note: This indicator is compared with the state average.

Data Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.*



Income

Income Levels

Report Area	Mean Household Income	Per Capita Income	Median Household Income
Armstrong	\$64,440	\$27,714	\$51,410
Pennsylvania	\$84,849	\$34,351	\$61,744
National	\$88,607	\$34,102	\$62,843

Data Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.*

Five-Year Unemployment Rate

Five Year Unemployment Rate

Report Area	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Armstrong	6.6%	7.5%	6.1%	5.0%	5.1%
Pennsylvania	5.3%	5.4%	4.9%	4.2%	4.4%
National	5.3%	4.9%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%

Data Source: *US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2020. Source geography: County*

Poverty

Percent Below Poverty Level by Age Groups, 2019

County	Related Children of Householder under 5	Related Children of Householder under 18	People 18 to 64 Years	65 Years and Over
Armstrong	22.0%	15.2%	10.3%	9.3%
Pennsylvania	19.2%	17.2%	11.9%	8.1%
United States	20.3%	18.2%	14.2%	9.3%

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates:*

Percentages Below Poverty Level

County	Percent All People Below Poverty Level	Percent All Unrelated Individuals Below Poverty Level
Armstrong	11.1%	23.6%
Pennsylvania	12.4%	24.1%
United States	13.4%	24.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019

Family Households in Poverty, 2019

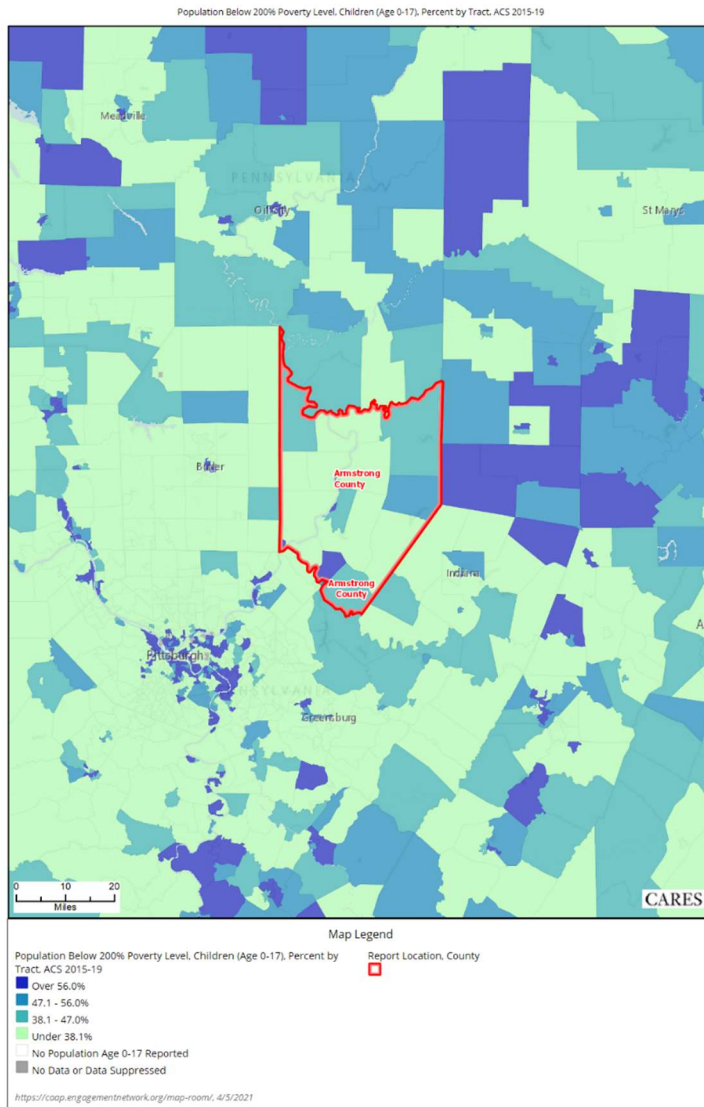
County	Total Families,	Families in Poverty,	% Families in Poverty,
Armstrong	18,818	4,611	24.5%
Pennsylvania	3,236,352	697,247	21.6%
National	79,114,031	19,337,643	24.5%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County Source:

Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2019

County	Persons in Poverty, 2000	Poverty Rate, 2000	Persons in Poverty, 2019	Poverty Rate, 2019	% Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2019
Armstrong	7,741	10.8%	7,215	11.1%	0.3%
Pennsylvania	1,135,925	9.5%	1,539,183	12.4%	2.9%
National	31,581,086	11.3%	42,510,843	13.4%	2.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.



Change in Childhood (0-17) Poverty Rate, 2012 - 2019

County	Children, Ages 0 - 17 years				
	Children in Poverty, 2012	Poverty Rate, 2012	Children in Poverty, 2019	Poverty Rate, 2019	% Change in Poverty Rate, 2012 - 2019
Armstrong	2,554	18.5%	1,925	15.4%	-3.1%
Pennsylvania	506,796	18.4%	458,890	17.6%	-0.8%
National	15,188,844	20.8%	13,377,778	18.5%	-2.3%

Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2008-2012, 2015-19.*

American Community Survey, Child (0-17) Poverty Rate, 2015 – 2019

County	Children, Ages 0 - 17 years		
	Total Population 0-17	0-17 In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Armstrong	12,517	1,925	15.4%
Pennsylvania	2,613,746	458,890	17.6%
National	72,235,700	13,377,778	18.5%

Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19*

Poverty Rate for Children under Five, 2015-2019

County	Children, Ages 0 - 4 years		
	Total Population Children 0-4	Children 0-4 in Poverty, 2019	Poverty Rate, 2019
Armstrong	3,150	692	22.0%
Pennsylvania	694,722	133,106	19.2%
National	19,430,702	3,948,405	20.3%

Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19*

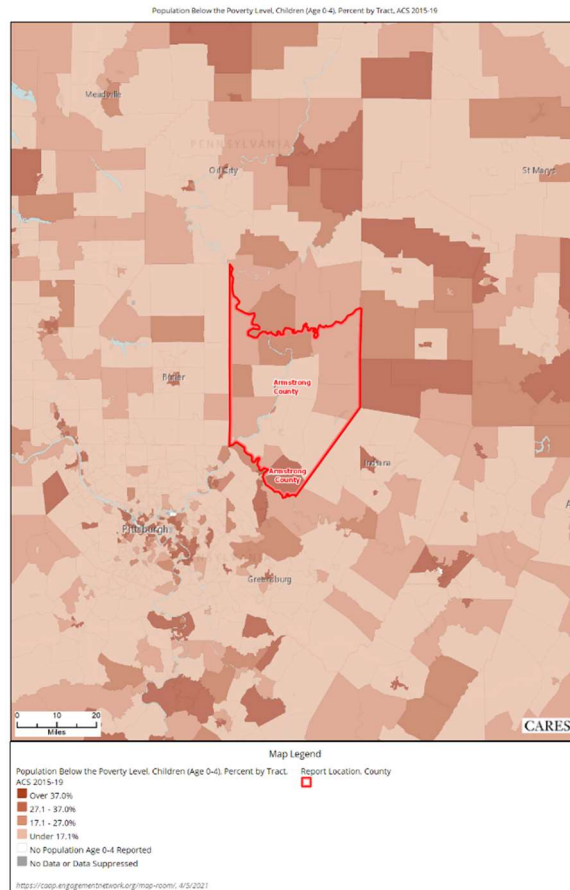
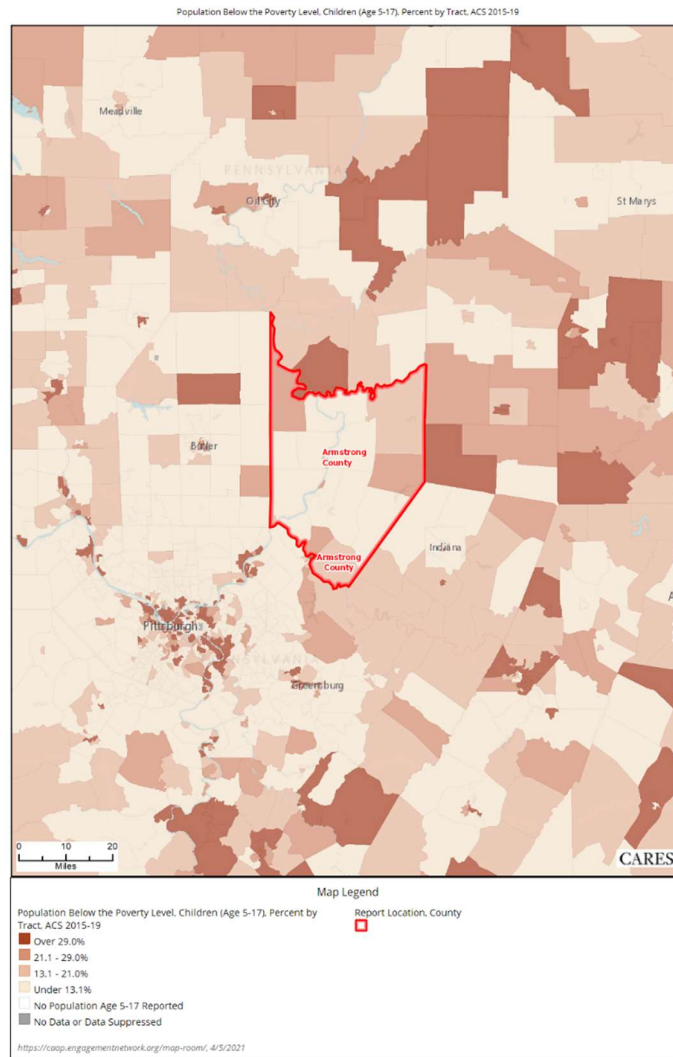


Table 64. American Community Survey, Child (5-17) Poverty Rate, 2015-2019

County	Children, Ages 5 - 17 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Armstrong	9,367	1,233	13.2%
Pennsylvania	1,919,024	325,784	17.0%
National	52,804,998	9,429,373	17.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County



Number of Individuals Eligible for County Assistance Funding, Jan. 2021

County	Total Population	Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance	Percent of Population Eligible	Receiving TANF	Percent of Population Receiving TANF	Eligible for SNAP	Percent Eligible for SNAP
Armstrong	65,867	23,062	35.1%	193	0.3%	9,667	14.7%
Pennsylvania	12,791,530	4,518,714	35.4%	76,279	0.6%	1,819,729	14.3%

Source: *Pa. Dept. of Human Services statistics for January 2021.*

Supplemental Security Income, December 2019

County	Total Recipients	Amount of Payments (\$1,000)	Recipients by Age Category		
			Under 18	18 - 64	65 or Older
Armstrong	2,059	\$1,202	246	1,482	331
Pennsylvania	354,037	\$215,211	59,725	220,528	73,784

Source: *Social Security Administration, SSI Recipients by State and County, December 2019*

PART I – BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Food and Nutrition

Almost everyone agrees that there are basic human needs that everyone must have in order to survive. There can be a discussion as to what constitutes essential needs, but for purposes of this needs assessment, we are considering three items, food, shelter, and health. The ACCAA staff and board agree that these three basic needs must be addressed by programs operated by the agency wherever possible, to insure that all citizens of the county have access to them, even before other programming can be provided. For this reason, basic human needs are the number one priority of the ACCAA. The following statistics are included to show specific measurements for these basic human needs in Armstrong County.

Free and Reduced Lunch Program

The table below shows the number of students eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program in the 2019 school year. The figures below include public and private schools. There are 4,357 total students eligible in Armstrong County, which makes up 56.71% of the 7,683 total enrolled students, compared to a Pennsylvania rate of 52.79%.

County	District	Type	Total Enrollment	Free Lunch Eligible	Free Lunch Enrollment	Reduced Lunch Eligible	Reduced Lunch Enrollment	Free and Reduced Lunch Enrollment
ARM.	APOLLO-RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT	Public School	1,246	598	48.0%	88	7.1%	55.1%
ARM.	ARMSTRONG SCHOOL DISTRICT	Public School	5,017	2900	58.0%	110	2.2%	60.0%
ARM.	LEECHBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	Public School	782	468	60.0%	21	2.7%	62.5%
ARM.	LENAPE AVTS	Public School	531	213	40.1%	30	5.6%	45.8%
ARM.	DIVINE REDEEMER	Private School	106	29	27.4%	2	1.9%	29.3%
PA	no data	no data	1,744,344	899,518	51.6%	47,252	2.7%	54.3%

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. 2019 National School Lunch data reports.

Children Eligible for Free Lunch by Year, 2013-14 through 2018-19

Report Area	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Armstrong County	43.4%	43.8%	49.0%	66.2%	66.2%	67.1%
Pennsylvania	43.9%	46.0%	48.5%	47.9%	47.9%	51.3%

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES – Common Core of Data.

Another key indicator of need, as far as food is concerned, is statistics of SNAP benefits (food stamps.) The table below shows the average monthly unduplicated number of people eligible for services from the County Assistance Office.

Number of People Eligible for County Assistance Funding, January 2021

Report Area	Total Adults & children	Eligible for TANF	Percent Eligible for TANF	Eligible for SNAP	Percent Eligible for SNAP
Armstrong County, PA	65,867	193	0.3%	9,667	14.7%
Pennsylvania	12,791,530	76,279	0.6%	1,819,729	14.3%

Source: Total adults & children comes from the 2016 Census Bureau ACS. TANF and SNAP numbers are from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, January 2021 statistics

The chart below shows the past ten year history of individuals who have received SNAP benefits from August of 2011 until August of 2020.

SNAP 10 YEAR HISTORY BY INDIVIDUALS

AUG 2011 TO AUG 2020

	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>
State Total	1,778,395	1,815,207	1,825,015	1,825,132	1,869,766
Armstrong	10,912	10,718	10,792	10,793	10,903
	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Aug-20</u>
State Total	1,878,132	1,854,613	1,819,456	1,763,936	1,843,083
Armstrong	11,002	10,814	10,207	9,738	9,576

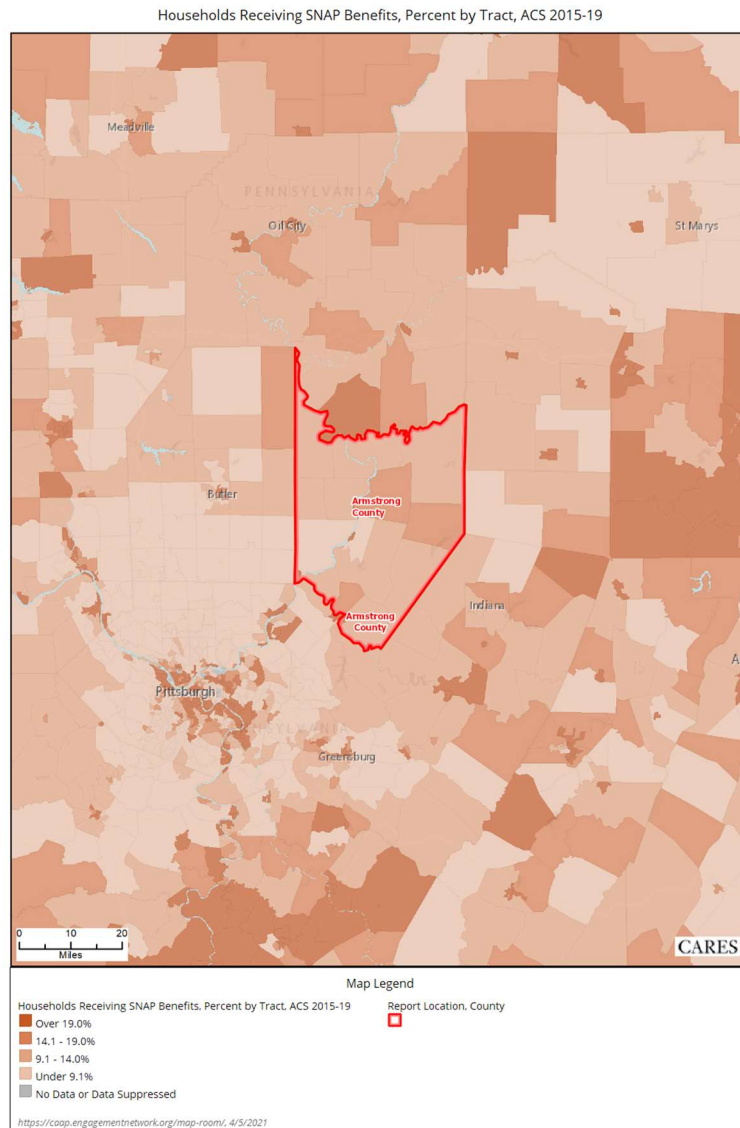
Source: *Pennsylvania Department of Human Services 2020*

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status (ACS)

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status 2019

County	Total Households in County	Total Households Receiving SNAP	Percent	Income Below Poverty	Income Above Poverty
Armstrong	28,137	4,407	15.66%	1,816	2,591
Pennsylvania	5,053,106	671,089	13.28%	308,607	362,482
National	120,756,048	14,171,567	11.74%	6,707,025	7,464,542

Source: *United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-19.*

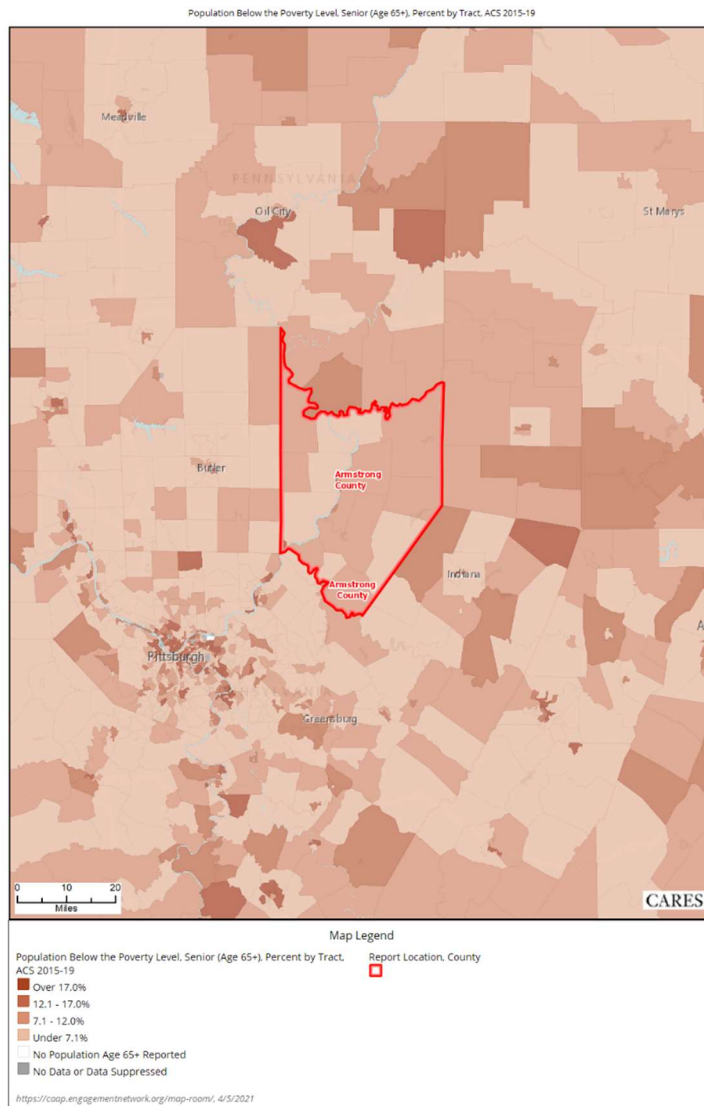


The ACCAA defers much of the responsibility of serving our County’s senior population to the Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging (AAA.) However, the ACCAA has assisted the local AAA in performing senior outreach over the years. Nutritional daily services provided to those persons age 60 and older are shown in the table below. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, a total of 124,007 meals were either served at centers or delivered to homes.

Services Provided to Persons Age 60 and Older, 2017-18

County	Congregate Meal Consumers	Total Congregate Meals	Total Home Delivered Consumers	Total Home Delivered Meals Served
Armstrong	1,513	44,401	428	79,606
Pennsylvania	99,386	2,834,845	40,533	6,136,004

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Aging, Fiscal year 2017-2018.



Seniors in Poverty

The Armstrong County Community Action Agency does provide boxed food once per month to needy senior citizens in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. As of December 2020, about 150 seniors are signed up to receive this food. Distribution of this food is done outside of the usual Food Bank distribution process and comes from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. In 2020, 80,000 pounds of food was distributed to 142 households.

Perhaps the biggest impact the ACCAA has in terms of food and nutrition is in the operation of the Armstrong County Food Bank. The ACCAA is the sponsor for the 17 food pantries that are located throughout the county. As the sponsor, the ACCAA receives funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture’s State Food Purchase Program to purchase food at wholesale or better pricing. In addition, the Agency receives government donated commodities and locally donated food to distribute to the food pantries. The Armstrong County Food Bank system distributes food on a monthly basis. During the last fiscal year, the ACCAA was able to distribute food to approximately 1,168 families per month. This would provide food for about 2,900 individuals each month.

Food Distributed by the ACCAA Food Bank System 2015-16

County	TEFAP Food Distributed		State Food Purchase Program		Total Value of Food Distributed
	Cases	Value	Pounds	Value	
Armstrong	2,543	\$65,738.25	510,692	\$103,773.77	\$169,512.02
Pennsylvania	N/A	N/A	33,634,395	\$17,688,000	N/A

Source: PA Governor Tom Wolf's Food Security Partnership website

Shelter and Housing

Shelter from the elements is essential for everyone, especially for those living in a climate similar to that found in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. There are other agencies that provide some sort of housing related services to residents of the County, but there are very few who become involved with our most vulnerable low-income citizens, the homeless and near homeless. The ACCAA has directed many resources to assist those less fortunate found in these types of situations. The Agency presently operates the Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. The agency uses these funds for housing assistance, emergency shelter, and housing case management. In addition, the ACCAA has a number of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Homeless Programs. These programs are Armstrong County Permanent Supportive Housing Program, Armstrong County Rapid Rehousing Program, and Armstrong-Fayette Rapid Rehousing Program. The Agency plays a key role in Armstrong County's local Emergency Food and Shelter Board. Salvation Army Kittanning and Mechling Shakley Veterans Center operate the food portion of the grant while the ACCAA does the shelter part.

In addition to the above homeless programs, on behalf of the County of Armstrong, the ACCAA has applied for and received funding from Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG.) This grant provides funding to the ACCAA for Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention. HAVIN also receives funding through this grant for Emergency Housing for their shelter. The ACCAA has partnered with Lawrence County Community Action in a couple of regional grants intended to assist homeless veterans. One of these grants is the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) funded by the Veteran's Administration. Another is the ESG Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention for veterans grant. Finally, the ACCAA is working regionally with Lawrence County on a Community Service Block Grant program to assist in finding employment for the homeless veterans.

Because there are no emergency shelters in Armstrong County, other than HAVIN, an abused victims shelter, the ACCAA applied for and received funding to operate a scattered site project based, leased housing emergency shelter program. This funding is from the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund which is operated by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. The money comes from payments made by drilling companies in Marcellus Shale well areas of Pennsylvania. This project was in conjunction with other human service agencies in the County. As a result of this partnership, Armstrong Indiana Behavioral and Developmental Health Program, Armstrong County Children, Youth, and Family Services, Armstrong Indiana Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission and the Armstrong County Jail each have a housing unit to be used to house their homeless families. The ACCAA also has a unit.

Closely related to all of the above housing grants are the grants that help families with utility assistance. The ACCAA operates the \$1 Energy Fund which assists clients of a select number of utilities in maintaining their heating and/or electricity in their homes. Assistance can also be given for some water customers. The Agency also assists electric customers of the Central Electric Cooperative with assistance to keep them from getting terminated. The ACCAA can also help prevent utility terminations with HAP and EFS funding.

2006 - 2018 Housing Units

County	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Armstrong	32,717	32,689	32,629	32,563	32,524	32,506
Pennsylvania	5,490,779	5,520,838	5,544,680	5,560,138	5,568,612	5,574,584

(Continued.) 2006 - 2018 Housing Units

County	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Armstrong	32,463	32,422	32,384	32,749	32,786	32,785	32,834
Pennsylvania	5,576,370	5,581,865	5,590,373	5,592,175	5,694,130	5,713,136	5,732,580

Source: United States Census Bureau, Population Division, Housing Unit Estimates for Counties: July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2014, Release Date May 2015 and American Community Survey 2012-16 and 2017, 2018, 2019.

The known year of when housing units were built for Armstrong county are shown in the table below. One can see that we are dealing with a much more aging housing stock than the rest of the State and especially the National average. The average age for Armstrong County homes is 6 years older than the average in Pennsylvania, and 21 years older than the average home in the US. A little over 55% of the homes in Armstrong County were built before 1960, or in other words, are more than 62 years old.

Housing Unit Age, 2019

County	Housing Units Where Year Built is Known	Median Year built	Housing Units Built				
			Newer than 2010	Built 2000 to 2010	Built 1980 to 1999	Built 1960 to 1979	Built pre 1960
Armstrong	32,853	1959	607	2,442	5,372	7,364	17,068
Pennsylvania	5,693,314	1963	165,804	471,594	1,091,801	1,281,988	2,682,127
National	137,428,986	1978	7,089,880	19,186,932	37,527,914	35,404,384	38,219,876

Source: *The American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2015 through 2019.*

Housing Unit Age, 2019 Percent

County	Housing Units Where Year Built is Known	Median Year built	Housing Units Built				
			Newer than 2010	Built 2000 to 2010	Built 1980 to 1999	Built 1960 to 1979	Built pre 1960
Armstrong	32,853	1959	1.85%	7.43%	16.35%	22.42%	51.95%
Pennsylvania	5,693,314	1963	2.91%	8.28%	19.18%	22.52%	47.11%
National	137,428,986	1978	5.16%	13.96%	27.31%	25.76%	27.81%

Source: *The American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2015 through 2019.*

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 22,408 owner occupied homes in Armstrong County in 2000, and 21,373 owner occupied homes in the County in 2016. Armstrong County saw a -4.58 percent change in owner occupied homes between 2000 and 2016. Comparatively, the Pennsylvania increase in owner occupied homes was .57%, and nationally, 7.26%.

Percent Change in Owner Occupied Homes, 2000 - 2016

County	Homes, 2000	Homes, 2018	Homes, 2016	Owner Occupied Homes Change 2016 to 2019 %
Armstrong	22,408	21,373	21,373	0.0%
Pennsylvania	3,406,337	3,425,706	3,480,978	1.6%
National	69,815,753	74,881,068	77,274,381	3.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1, 2000; United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-16, 2015-2019.

Furthermore, the percentage of Armstrong County residents that has owned their homes has decreased from 77.26% in 2000 to 65.91% in 2016, an 11.35% decrease. This is slightly higher than the decrease in home ownership statewide, 10.05% decrease: and nationally, 10.33% decrease.

The 2012 - 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) shows that 47.27% of occupied units paying rent nationwide pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs. For Armstrong County, 32.75% of occupied units paying rent have a housing cost burden. When 30% or more of income is spent on housing costs it is considered a "housing-cost burden". Total housing units are defined as "total rentals and owned where rent/owned and income known". The number of occupied units is limited to those where gross rent as a percentage of household income is able to be calculated. The primary reason that there are a lower percentage of renters with a housing cost burden in Armstrong County is because of the much lower rent in the County as compared to the State.

Housing-Cost Burden (Renters), 2012-16

County	Total Rental Housing Units	Cost Burden Units Paying 30 Percent or More of Income on Rent	Percent of Renters Spending 30 Percent or More of Income with Rent
Armstrong	6,764	2,424	35.9%
Pennsylvania	1,572,128	692,548	44.1%
National	43,481,667	20,002,945	46.0%

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-19

The 2012 - 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) shows in the report area that 30.62% of homeowners with mortgages nationwide pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs. 24.77% of owners with mortgages and 12.91% of owners without mortgages spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs in the report area. 30% or more of income spent on housing costs is considered a "housing-cost burden". Total housing units are defined as "total rentals and owned where rent/owned and income known". The number of occupied units is limited to those where gross rent as a percentage of household income is able to be calculated.

Housing-Cost Burden (Owners), 2019

County	Owners with Mortgages	30 Percent or More of Income with Mortgage	Percent of Owners Spending 30 Percent or More of Income with Mortgage	Owners without Mortgages	30 Percent or More of Income without Mortgage	Percent of Owners Spending 30 Percent or More of Income without Mortgage
Armstrong	10,530	2,425	23.1%	10,843	1,356	12.5%
Pennsylvania	2,092,266	520,428	24.9%	1,388,712	204,340	14.8%
National	48,416,627	13,400,012	27.7%	28,857,754	3,846,938	13.4%

Source: *United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-19*

We have included utility data in this needs assessment since electricity and heat are instrumental in providing adequate shelter for our population. The next table shows the number of approved applications and dollars spent in cash grants for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) which helps low-income families, typically with a one-time payment to help pay their heating bill during the winter months.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Cash Grants, 2016-2017

County	Cash Grants		
	Number of Approved Applications	Dollars Spent	Average Grant Amount
Armstrong	2,622	\$668,647	\$255.01
Pennsylvania	348,680	\$90,600,998	\$259.84

Source: *Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, 2016-17.*

This table below shows the number of approved applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and dollars spent in crisis grants for energy assistance in the Armstrong County area.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Crisis Grants, 2016-2017

County	Crisis Grants		
	Number of Approved Applications	Dollars Spent	Average Grant Amount
Armstrong	586	\$204,046	\$348.20
Pennsylvania	98,557	\$33,736,421	\$342.30

Source: *Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, 2016-2017.*

Households/Persons Experiencing Homelessness Counted During the Point-In-Time Count, 2018-2020															
Armstrong County															
	Total Persons/Households			Sheltered						Unsheltered					
	2018	2019	2020	Emergency			Transitional			Safe Haven			2018	2019	2020
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
All Households and Persons															
Total # Households	59	51	58	9	8	10	49	43	48	0	N/A*	N/A*	1	0	0
Total # Persons	66	62	67	16	19	19	49	43	48	0	N/A	N/A	1	0	0
# Children <18 years old	7	6	8	7	6	8	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
# Young Adults 18-24 years old	4	1	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
# Adults 25+ years old	55	55	57	7	12	9	47	43	48	0	N/A	N/A	1	0	0
Households without Children															
# Households	57	47	54	7	4	6	49	43	48	0	N/A	N/A	1	0	0
# Persons (Adult)	57	49	55	7	6	7	49	43	48	0	N/A	N/A	1	0	0
# Young Adults (18-24)	4	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
# Adults (25+)	53	49	53	5	6	5	47	43	48	0	N/A	N/A	1	0	0
Households with at least one Adult and one Child															
# Households	2	4	4	2	4	4	0	0	0				0	0	0
# Persons (Adults & Children)	9	13	12	9	13	12	0	0	0				0	0	0
# Children (<18)	7	6	8	7	6	8	0	0	0				0	0	0
# Persons Adults	2	7	4	2	7	4	0	0	0				0	0	0
# Young Adults 18-24 years old	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
# Adults 25+ years old	2	6	4	2	6	4	0	0	0				0	0	0
Households with only Children (Age 17 or under)															
# Households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
# Children (<18)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
Unaccompanied Youth Households															
# Unaccompanied Youth Households	4	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
# Unaccompanied Youth	4	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
# Unaccompanied Youth <18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
# Unaccompanied Youth 18-24	4	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
Parenting Youth Households															
# Parenting Youth Households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
# Persons in Parenting Youth Households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
# Children w/Parenting Youth (children <18 w/parents <25)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
# Parenting Youth (youth parents only)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
# Parenting Youth <18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
# Parenting Youth 18-24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
Chronically Homeless															
# Chronically Homeless Individuals	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
# Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
Other Homeless Subpopulations															
Severely Mentally Ill	25	9	9	4	1	0	21	8	9	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
Chronic Substance Abuse	24	10	8	3	4	0	21	6	8	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
Persons with HIV/AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
Total unduplicated # of persons with a disability. Includes those listed above plus any other disabilities.	30	18	32	7	7	0	23	11	32	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
Veterans	49	43	48	0	0	0	49	43	48	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
Victims of Domestic Violence	4	0	3	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0

*safe havens no longer operational in 2019

The preceding chart reflects the incidence of homelessness in Armstrong County for a single point in time (one day in late January) for the three years of 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Health

Without adequate health, it is difficult for anyone to take the next step towards self-sufficiency. For this reason, we have included health statistics in this Basic Needs section of our Needs Assessment. The next table shows the monthly unduplicated number of persons eligible for medical assistance for the month of January 2021.

Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance, January 2021

County	Total Population	Persons Eligible	% of Population Eligible
Armstrong	65,867	13,055	19.9%
Pennsylvania	12,791,530	2,577,618	20.2%

Source: Department of Human Services, Monthly Physical Health Managed Care Program Enrollment Report, Feb 2021

10 YEAR HISTORY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE INDIVIDUALS					
AUGUST 2011 TO AUG 2020					
	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>
State Total	2,333,807	2,199,885	2,198,861	2,248,843	2,611,818
Armstrong	13,451	12,644	12,553	12,990	14,937
	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Aug-20</u>
State Total	2,798,529	2,869,245	2,309,422	2,254,482	2,434,275
Armstrong	16,006	15,891	11,760	11,514	12,440

Source: Department of Human Services, Monthly Physical Health Managed Care Program Enrollment Report, Sept of each year 2011-2020

The total number of institutional Medicare and Medicaid providers, including hospitals, nursing facilities, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics and community mental health centers for Armstrong County is shown in the below table.

Institutional Medicare and Medicaid Providers, 2020

County	Total Institutional Providers	Hospitals	Nursing Facilities	Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rural Health Clinics	Community Mental Health Centers
Armstrong	12	1	4	0	5	0
Pennsylvania	2,864	248	695	292	69	8

Source: *US Department of Health & Human Services, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services, [Provider of Services File](#). September 2020.*

The total number of persons receiving Medicare is shown, broken down by number over 65 and number of disabled persons receiving Medicare for Armstrong County in the table below.

Medicare Enrollment by County, March 2020

County	Total Persons Receiving Hospital or Medical	Total Persons Receiving Prescription Plan	Percentage of Population Receiving Hospital or Medical	Percentage of Population Receiving Prescription Plan
Armstrong	17,329	14,375	26.3%	21.9%
Pennsylvania	2,764,835	2,180,984	21.7%	17.1%

Source: *[Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Medicare Enrollment Dashboard](#)*

Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Enrollment

County	Total Enrollment	Federal Poverty Levels				
		Less than 208%	208% to 262%	262% to 288%	288% to 314%	Greater than 314%
Armstrong	1,041	681	207	58	42	53
Pennsylvania	185,553	124,809	33,506	9,138	6,846	11,254

Source: *2019 Annual Report to the Legislature, Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program.*

The lack of health insurance is considered a key driver of health status. This indicator reports the percentage of the total civilian non-institutionalized population without health insurance coverage. This indicator is relevant because lack of insurance is a primary barrier to healthcare access including regular primary care, specialty care, and other health services that contributes to poor health status.

Uninsured Persons

Report Area	Total Population (For whom insurance status is determined)	Total Number Uninsured	Percent Uninsured
Armstrong	65,307	2,740	4.20%
Pennsylvania	12,587,348	715,285	5.68%
National	319,706,872	28,248,613	8.84%

Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19*

By looking at the chart below, it is obvious that women in Armstrong County are giving birth at a younger age than most other women in Pennsylvania. The highest rate of births for the County occurred with mothers 25-29 years of age, giving birth at a rate of 120.4 per 1,000. The highest birth rate for the average Pennsylvania women was between the ages of 30 to 34, with a birth rate of 103.6. Of interest are live births by mothers under the age of 19, who gave birth at a rate of 25.3 as opposed to the Pennsylvania rate of 19.4. These births can work against families being self-sufficient. Teen mothers are statistically less likely to continue education through high school and college, without which many may earn only low-income wages. Teen mothers and their children face increased health risk due to lack of education and resources. The good news is that the percentage of births with low birth weights is actually lower than the State percentage, 7.3% to 8.2%. In addition, the percentage of preterm births is also lower for the County, 8.2% to 9.4%.

Live Births by Females Age 15 to 44 for 2018

	15 to 19 Years	20 to 24 Years	25 to 29 Years	30 to 34 Years	35 to 39 Years	40 to 44 Years
Armstrong	31	147	187	136	49	9
Pennsylvania	5,574	23,722	39,812	42,336	20,082	3,736

Source: *Pennsylvania Department of Health, Health Statistics, Vital Statistics Report. 2018*

The chart below compares Armstrong County with Pennsylvania in a number of measures associated with giving birth. Note that despite the lower percentage of mothers-to-be receiving prenatal care in the 1st Trimester, the percentage giving birth to low weight babies is similar, and the percentage of preterm births was lower. This is especially odd since there were higher percentages of smoking mothers in Armstrong County than in PA.

Comparing Armstrong Co. & PA with Assorted Birth Measures

Measure	Armstrong	Pennsylvania	Comparison
Percent Low Birth Weight Births	7.1%	8.3%	Lower
Percent Prenatal Care in 1 st Trimester Births	81.2%	73.9%	Higher
Percent Mothers without High School Diploma or GED	12%	11.3%	Higher
% Non-smoking Mother Births	80.5%	89.6%	Lower

Source: *Pennsylvania Department of Health, Health Statistics, Vital Statistics Report. 2018*

The following table lists the top causes of death on average from 2014 through 2018 in Armstrong County as a rate per 100,000. The chart also lists the rate for each cause of death for Pennsylvania and compares the County rate to the Pennsylvania rate.

Top Leading Causes of Death - Armstrong County

Rates per 100,000

Rank	Cause of Death	Armstrong	Pennsylvania	Comparison
1	Heart Disease	178.5	175.8	Similar
2	Cancer	158.2	163.2	Lower
3	Accidents	85.9	58	Higher
4	Cerebrovascular Diseases	38.1	36.7	Similar
5	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	42.9	36.7	Higher

Source: *Pa. Dept. of Health, vital statistics 2014-2018*

The chart below shows four disease rates that were significantly higher or lower for Armstrong County residents as opposed to the average Pennsylvanian. These were the only four diseases that did not have similar rates between the County and the State.

Incidence Rates of Selected Diseases, 2018 With Significant Variances from PA Rates

Disease	Armstrong	Pennsylvania	Comparison
Chlamydia rate per 100,000	169.1	463.4	Lower
HIV rate per 100,000	53.2	330.8	Lower
Gonorrhea rate per 100,000	21.3	124.1	Lower

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. 2018. Source geography: County

Lyme Disease Transmission Cases, 2018

Disease	Armstrong	Pennsylvania
Lyme Disease	216	10,208

Data Source: PA Department of Health, 2018 Lyme and Other Tickborne Diseases Annual Report August 2020

The number of physicians and physician assistants for the report area is found next. There are 1.4 physicians per 1000 persons in the report area; the Pennsylvania average is 3.73 physicians per 1000 persons. It is obvious that Armstrong County is medically underserved by looking at the next few tables.

The next indicator report shows the percentage of adults aged 18 and older who self-report heavy alcohol consumption (defined as more than two drinks per day on average for men and one drink per day on average for women.) This indicator is relevant because current behaviors are determinants of future health and this indicator may illustrate a cause of significant health issues, such as cirrhosis, cancers, and untreated mental and behavioral health needs. As can be seen in the chart below, Armstrong County residents drink excessively at a higher rate than the rest of the State and the U.S.

Excessive Alcohol Consumption Adults 18+

Report Area	Total Population Age 18+	Estimated Adults Drinking Excessively	Estimated Percentage Adults Drinking Excessively
Armstrong County	54,835	11,296	20.6%
Pennsylvania	9,857,384	1,705,327	17.3%
United States	232,556,016	38,248,349	16.4%

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Accessed via the Health Indicators Warehouse. US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Indicators Warehouse. 2006-12

Within Armstrong County, 14,497 or 25.4% of adults aged 20 and older self-report no leisure time for activity, based on the question: "During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise?" This indicator is relevant because current behaviors are determinants of future health and this indicator may illustrate a cause of significant health issues, such as obesity and poor cardiovascular health. As can be seen by these graphics, Armstrong County residents drink more and exercise less than the rest of the nation.

Physical Inactivity

Report Area	Total Population Age 20+	Population with No Leisure Time Physical Activity	Percent Population with No Leisure Time Physical Activity
Armstrong County	51,959	17,666	32.1%
Pennsylvania	9,782,259	2,149,232	20.9%
United States	243,068,284	55,261,407	22.1%

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. 2017.

The following charts give an idea of accessibility to health professionals for Armstrong County residents. Overall, the County is underserved in most areas.

Physicians and Assistants, June 2020

County	Medical Physicians / Surgeons	Medical Physician Assistants	Osteopathic Physicians / Surgeons	Physicians / Assistants per 1,000
Armstrong	49	23	20	1.40
Pennsylvania	37,365	8,603	7,627	4.19

Source: *Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. June 2020*

Dental Professionals, June 2020

County	Dentists	Dental Hygienists	Dental Professionals per 1,000 Persons
Armstrong	22	42	0.97
Pennsylvania	8,214	8,229	1.29

Data Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. June 2020.*

Mental Health Professionals, June 2020

County	Psychologists	Psychologist per 1,000 Persons
Armstrong	6	0.09
Pennsylvania	5,394	0.42

Source: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Source geography: County June 2020*

Therapists, June 2020

County	Physical Therapists	Occupational Therapists	Chiropractors	Therapists / Chiropractors per 1,000 Persons
Armstrong	44	30	20	1.43
Pennsylvania	13,395	8,106	3,706	1.97

Source: *Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, June 2020*

Our County is also underserved when looking at the number of specialty physicians for the Armstrong County. This indicator measures the number of non-primary care physicians per 100,000 in population. Access to the services of a specialist may be important for certain health conditions - especially chronic illnesses. For example, individuals with cancer benefit from having their care managed by oncologists rather than primary care physicians. Some specialist physicians can fill a similar role as a primary care physician in that they serve as the primary source of care for patients who see them regularly for chronic illnesses.

Specialty Physicians

Report Area	Specialty Physicians per 100,000
Armstrong	32.2
Pennsylvania	174.2
United States	153

Source: *Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resource File, 2015-2016 edition.*

PART II – SELF SUFFICIENCY NEEDS

Employment

After one obtains the essential basic needs that one needs for survival, there are numerous things necessary in today’s world in order to optimize one’s full potential. Perhaps the most important step in this self-actualization process is the ability to gain meaningful employment. The Armstrong County Community Action Agency continues to assist low-income consumers in this endeavor by providing employment readiness training and by actually assisting clients in finding employment through a job developer. All departments that provide case management for their clients perform a certain amount of employment training, but the agency is always on the lookout for funding that would assist us in our efforts.

The following lists the top ten largest employers in Armstrong County as of the third quarter of 2020.

Armstrong County Memorial Hospital

Armstrong School District

Wal-Mart Associates Inc

Armstrong County

Rosebud Mining Company

Cook Vandergrift Inc

State Government

Federal Government

ATI Flat Rolled Products LLC

Apollo-Ridge School District

Source: *Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Center for Workforce Information & Analysis*

Average annual wages for the Armstrong County in 2017 are listed below. Wage and employment figures are shown by county of employment... As is easily discernable, wages in Armstrong County are much lower than the rest of the State.

Annual Wages 2017

County	Total Employees	Average Annual Wage
Armstrong	15,245	\$42,536
Pennsylvania	5,437,143	\$59,176

Source: *PA Dept. of Labor & Industry Quarterly Information for Q3 2020*

Living Wage Calculation for Armstrong County, Pennsylvania

A more accurate way of determining wages for an area is by looking at the “Living Wage”. The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an individual must earn 40 hours a week in order to meet the basic living expenses of their family. The Minimum Hourly Wage for Pennsylvania is \$7.25. In the table below, for families with two adults the assumptions are that one adult is staying home with the children so there are no child care costs, and the family has access to only one vehicle.

All values are per adult in a family unless otherwise noted. The state minimum wage is the same for all individuals, regardless of how many dependents they may have. The poverty rate is typically quoted as gross annual income. We have converted it to an hourly wage for the sake of comparison.

Hourly Wages	1 Adult	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	1 Adult 3 Children	2 Adults (1 Working)	2 Adults (1 Working) 1 Child	2 Adults (1 Working) 2 Children
Living Wage	\$11.92	\$25.15	\$31.50	\$40.13	\$20.23	\$23.99	\$27.09
Poverty Wage	\$6.13	\$8.29	\$10.44	\$12.60	\$8.29	\$10.44	\$14.75
Minimum Wage	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25

Hourly Wages	2 Adults (1 Working) 3 Children	2 Adults (Both Working)	2 Adults (2 Working) 1 Child	2 Adults (2 Working) 2 Children	2 Adults (2 Working) 3 Children
Living Wage	\$29.09	\$10.11	\$13.91	\$17.11	\$20.30
Poverty Wage	\$14.75	\$4.14	\$5.22	\$6.30	\$7.38
Minimum Wage	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25

Source: [Living Wage Calculator at http://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/42005](http://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/42005)

Median Household Income by Household Size, 2015 - 2019

County	Median Household Income						
	Household of One	Household of Two	Household of Three	Household of Four	Household of Five	Household of Six	Household of Seven
Armstrong	\$23,539	\$55,612	\$70,059	\$80,215	\$85,761	\$70,972	\$78,125
Pennsylvania	\$30,528	\$69,203	\$84,536	\$99,131	\$93,394	\$89,202	\$82,877
National	\$32,008	\$70,231	\$81,087	\$93,831	\$86,817	\$83,852	\$88,580

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. The American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2015 through 2019.

Employment/Unemployment Information, December, 2020

County	Labor Force	Employment	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Armstrong	30,986	28,668	2,318	7.5%
Pennsylvania	6,239,878	5,842,253	397,625	6.4%
National	161,035,853	150,525,335	10,510,519	6.5%

Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2020 - December. Source

Five Year Average Annual Unemployment Rate, 2015 to 2019

County	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Armstrong	6.6%	7.5%	6.1%	5.0%	5.1%
Pennsylvania	5.3%	5.4%	4.9%	4.2%	4.4%
National	5.3%	4.9%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. The American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2015 through 2019.

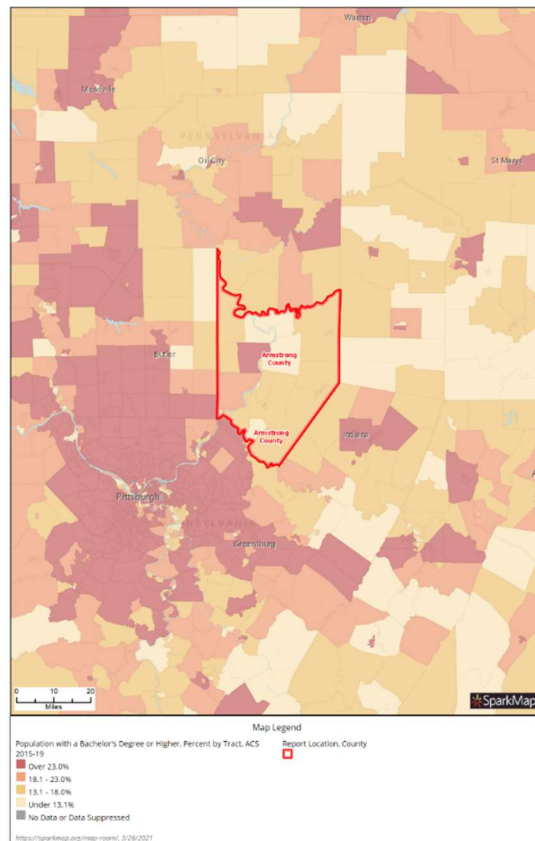
Education

Since education has such a strong influence upon the type of jobs and the resultant wages paid to employees, it is no wonder that the income statistics of Armstrong County are showing a more depressed departure from the State-wide norm. The table below shows the distribution of educational attainment levels in Armstrong County. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25, except where noted, and is an average for the period from 2015 to 2019.

Percent Attaining Educational Levels, 2015-19

County	Education Level for Persons over 25					
	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associates	Bachelors	Graduate or Professional
Armstrong	9.69%	49.0%	14.7%	9.9%	11.2%	5.5%
Pennsylvania	9.48%	34.7%	15.9%	8.5%	19.0%	12.4%
National	12.00%	27.0%	20.4%	8.5%	19.8%	12.4%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. The American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2015 through 2019.



The next table shows Early Childhood Programming in Armstrong County.

2020 Early Childhood Education and Day Care Enrollment

	Avg. Monthly Children Receiving Subsidized Child Care	% Enrolled in Keystone STARS 3 AND 4	% of Unserved Children Eligible for Subsidized Child Care	% Children 3-4 in Public Funded High Quality Pre-K	% Unserved Children Eligible for Public Funded High Quality Pre-K
Armstrong	1,110	29.1%	87.5	28.3%	56.4%
Pennsylvania	203,110	36.2%	73.5	23.0%	59.8%

Source: *Pa. Partnerships for Children, State of the Child County Profile, Armstrong, 2020*

The following table is a listing of Certified Child Care Providers provided by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) as of December 31, 2014.

* Child Care Center: A child care facility in which 7 or more children who are not related to the operator receive child care.

* Family Child Care Home: A child care facility located in a home in which 4 to 6 children who are not related to the caregiver receive child care.

* Group Child Care Home: A child care facility in which 7 to 12 children of various ages or in which 7 to 15 children from 4th grade through 15 years of age who are not related to the operator receive child care.

** The maximum number of children permitted to receive care in a child care facility at one time based on square footage of child care space and age of the children.

Certified Child Care Facilities, March 2021

County	Number of Certified Providers	Certified Provider Type *	Maximum Capacity **
Armstrong	9	Child Care Center	730
Armstrong	11	Family Child Care Home	66
Armstrong	1	Group Child Care Home	12

Source: *Compass.state.pa.us child care search (OCDEL), 2021.*

The five year public and non-public school enrollment for the five year period 2015 to 2019 are listed below..

Public and Non-Public School Enrollment, 2019

County	Pre-K and Kindergarten	Elem. & Middle 1-8	High School 9-12
	Total	Total	Total
Armstrong	1405	5,673	2,994

Source: *American Community Survey, school enrollment, 5 year estimates, 2015-2019*

The County does well in comparing it with the State as far as the annual High School Dropout rate. This rate is defined as the number of students who, for any reason other than death, leave school before graduation without transferring to another school or institution. For the academic year 2018-2019, 49 students dropped out in Armstrong County.

High School Dropout Rates, 2018-19

County	Total Enrollment Grades 7-12	Dropouts			Dropout Rate
		Male	Female	Total	
Apollo Ridge HS	363	5	3	8	2.20%
Armstrong JSHS	1,628	14	4	18	1.11%
West Shamokin	613	3	1	4	.65%
Freeport HS	575	0	1	1	.17%
Leechburg HS	239	2	3	5	2.09%
Lenape Tech	489	0	1	1	.20%
Armstrong Co. Total	3,907	24	13	37	.10%
Pennsylvania	807,808	8,116	5,871	13,987	1.73%

Source: *Dropouts Public by School 2018-2019, The Pennsylvania Department of Education.*

The next table shows the number of Public High School Graduates planning on attending college in the County for the 2018-2019 academic year.

High School Graduates, 2018-19

County	Total Graduates	College Bound	College Bound %
Apollo-Ridge SD	80	48	60.00%
Armstrong SD	297	181	60.94%
Freeport Area SD	143	121	84.94%
Leechburg Area SD	50	31	62.00%
Lenape Tech	137	47	34.31%
Total Armstrong County	707	428	60.54%
Pennsylvania	125,515	84,445	67.28%

Source: *Public High School Graduates and Postsecondary Education Rates, The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Data and Reporting 2018-19 school year.*

So how do Armstrong County students do as far as the norm in State testing statistics? The following tables show these results. The first table shows the algebra proficiency results for each school district in the Armstrong County from the 2019 Keystone Exams for Grade 11. This data is intended to assist parents, educators and administrators in evaluating their student's strengths and weaknesses so they can increase student achievement scores. Those school districts performing worse than the State in “Advanced” or “Below Basic” are shown in red.

Grade 11 Achievements in Algebra, 2019 - Armstrong County

Schools	Number Scored in Algebra	Advanced Algebra	Proficient Algebra	Basic Algebra	Below Basic Algebra
APOLLO-RIDGE	68	2.9%	61.8%	26.5%	8.8%
ARMSTRONG JSHS	175	12.6%	64.6%	19.4%	3.4%
FREEPORT AREA	116	36.2%	46.6%	13.8%	3.4%
LEECHBURG AREA	63	9.5%	50.8%	31.7%	7.9%
West Shamokin	61	16.4%	68.9%	13.1%	1.6%
Lenape AVTS	163	4.3%	41.7%	36.8%	17.2%
Pennsylvania	119,742	24.6%	38.7%	26.2%	10.5%

Source: PA Dept. of Education, 2019 Keystone Exams Grade 11 – School Level Proficiency Results

The next table shows the biology proficiency results for each school district in the Armstrong County from the 2019 Keystone Exams for Grade 11. This data is intended to assist parents, educators and administrators in evaluating their student's strengths and weaknesses so they can increase student achievement scores. Those school districts performing worse than the State in Advanced or Below the State average are shown in red.

Grade 11 Achievements in Biology, 2019 - Armstrong County

Schools	Number Scored in Biology	Advanced Biology	Proficient Biology	Basic Biology	Below Basic Biology
APOLLO-RIDGE	68	20.6%	54.4%	17.6%	7.4%
ARMSTRONG JSHS	173	51.4%	34.7%	11.0%	2.9%
FREEPORT AREA	119	42.9%	37.0%	14.3%	5.9%
LEECHBURG AREA	65	13.8%	75.4%	3.1%	7.7%
West Shamokin	60	46.7%	28.3%	23.3%	1.7%
Lenape AVTS	163	19.6%	35.6%	26.4%	18.4%
Pennsylvania	118,506	26.4%	36.8%	20.5%	16.3%

Source: PA Dept. of Education, 2019 Keystone Exams Grade 11 – School Level Proficiency Results

Finally, the next table shows the literature proficiency results for each school district in the Armstrong County from the 2019 Keystone Exams for Grade 11. This data is intended to assist parents, educators and administrators in evaluating their student's strengths and weaknesses so they can increase student achievement scores. Those school districts performing worse than the State in Advanced or Below the State average are shown in red.

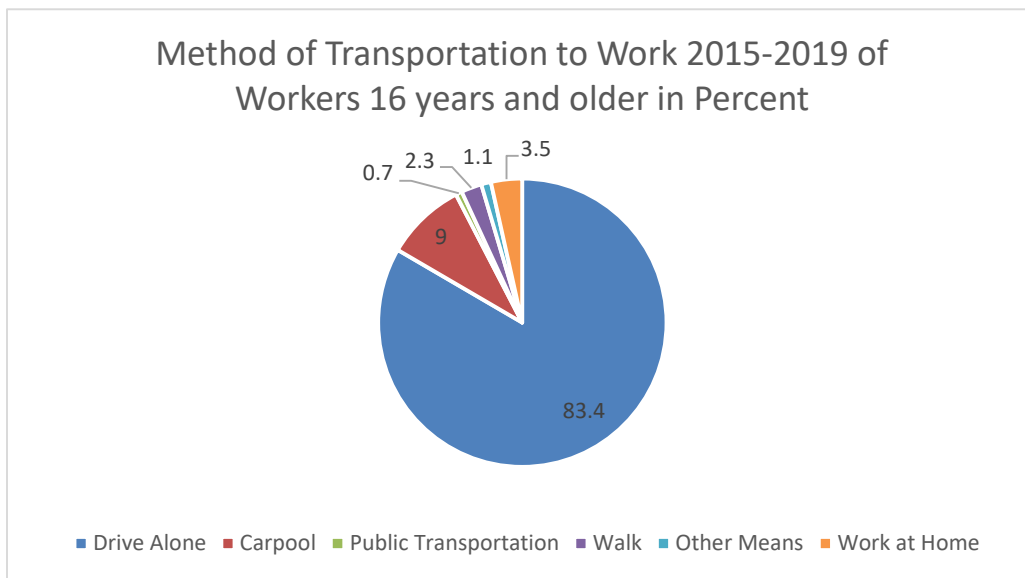
Grade 11 Achievements in Literature, 2019 - Armstrong County

Schools	Number Scored in Literature	Advanced Literature	Proficient Literature	Basic Literature	Below Basic Literature
APOLLO-RIDGE	68	10.3%	72.1%	11.8%	5.9%
ARMSTRONG JSHS	174	8.6%	79.9%	9.8%	1.7%
FREEPORT AREA	119	21.0%	66.4%	9.2%	3.4%
LEECHBURG AREA	69	1.4%	78.3%	7.2%	13.0%
West Shamokin	60	10.0%	73.3%	15.0%	1.7%
Lenape AVTS	163	1.8%	50.9%	30.7%	16.6%
Pennsylvania	118,885	26.4%	36.8%	20.5%	16.3%

Source: PA Dept. of Education, 2019 Keystone Exams Grade 11 – School Level Proficiency Results

Transportation

The Armstrong County Community Action Agency has been involved with providing transportation for Armstrong County residents almost since the Agency began operations in the mid 1960's. The ACCAA started transporting senior citizens until the Area Agency on Aging began operations and took over the program. The same is true with the transportation authority in the County, MCTA (Mid County Transit Authority.) The ACCAA helped to form this authority and had a large part in writing the original grant. Presently, the Agency operates the Medical Assistance Transportation Program which provides mileage reimbursements or public transportation for low-income access card holders who have no other way to make it to their medical appointments.

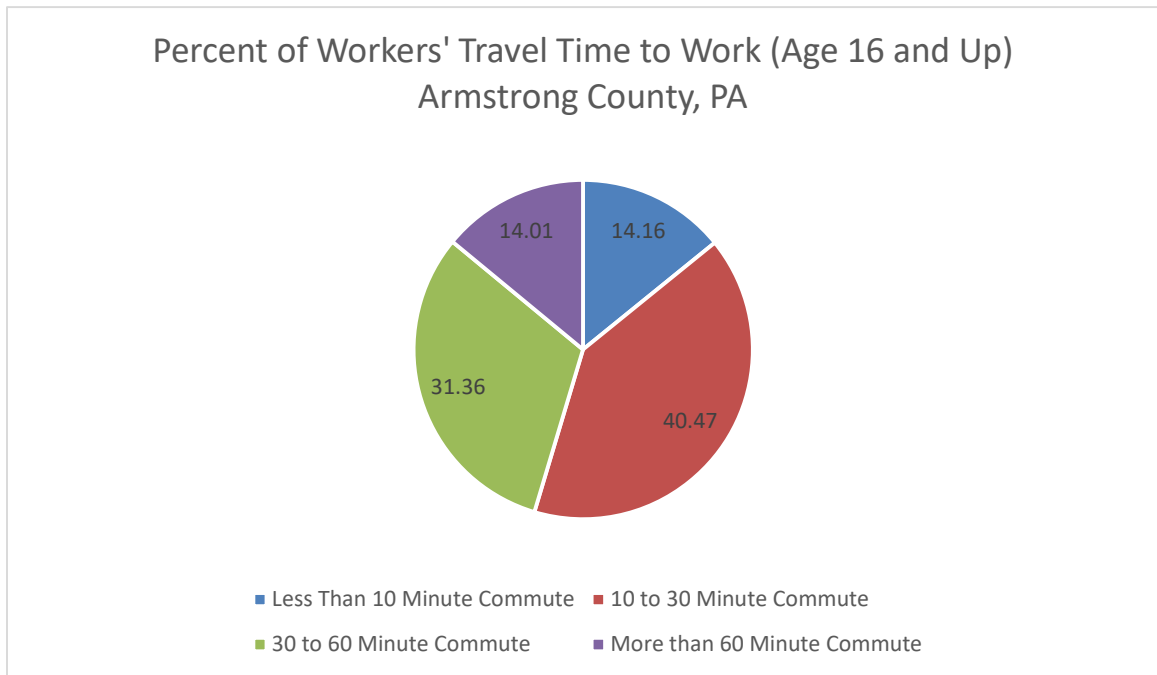


Method of Transportation to Work

County	Workers 16 and Up	Method of Transportation to Work (Percent)					
		Drive Alone	Carpool	Public Transportation	Walk	Other Means	Work at Home
Armstrong	29,130	83.4%	9.0%	0.7%	2.3%	1.1%	3.5%
Pennsylvania	6,081,077	75.9%	8.5%	5.6%	3.6%	1.5%	4.9%
National	152,735,781	76.3%	9.0%	5.0%	2.7%	1.8%	5.2%

Source: *United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019.*

Travel times for workers who travel (do not work at home) to work is shown in the below table for Armstrong County.



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.

Population Commuting to Work Over 60 Minutes

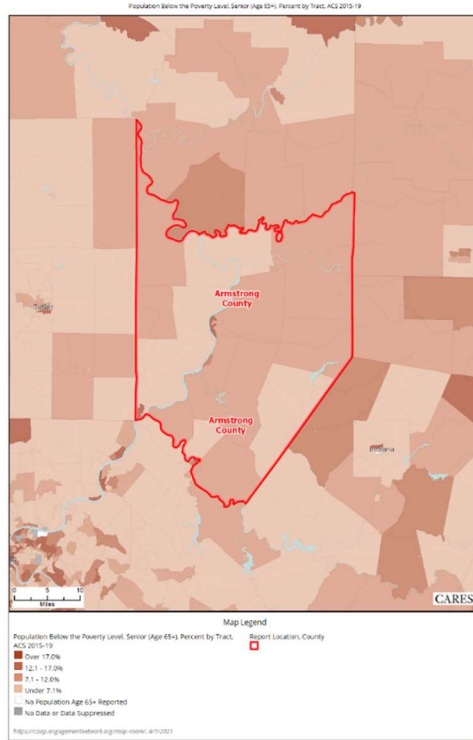
County	Workers 16 and Up	Population Commuting More than 60 Minutes to Work	Percentage Commuting More than 60 Minutes
Armstrong	28,100	3,936	14.01%
Pennsylvania	5,783,357	541,900	9.37%
National	144,837,205	13,542,278	9.35%

Source US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.

Senior Citizens

The Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging has specialized its' services to the senior citizen population of Armstrong County. For this reason, the Armstrong County Community Action Agency has not become too involved in providing services for this population segment. Some exceptions to this is the Senior Boxes that are given out monthly to low-income senior citizens. These boxes contain food commodities that can help stretch their limited fixed income. In addition, the ACCAA has a contract with the Area Agency on Aging to provide outreach to seniors within the County. Most recently, the ACCAA has lent its' support to a senior housing project, Armstrong Senior Living, that hopes to locate on land behind the offices of the ACCAA at 705 Butler Road, Kittanning, PA 16201. A private developer has made application to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency for funding for this project. As of this time, the application has been unsuccessful and it may take several years for this project to take fruition. A table below shows statistics on the low-income population of seniors in the County.

Seniors in Poverty, 2015-2019



County	Total Population Seniors Ages 65 and Up	Seniors in Poverty 65 and UP	Senior Poverty Rate
Armstrong	13,941	1,295	9.3%
Pennsylvania	2,202,234	179,411	8.1%
National	49,488,799	4,587,432	9.3%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.

COVID-19

COVID-19 - Confirmed Cases

This indicator reports incidence rate of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population. Data for this indicator are updated daily and derived from the Johns Hopkins University data feed.

In the report area, there have been 5,261 total confirmed cases of COVID-19. The rate of confirmed cases is 8,061.23 per 100,000 population, which is less than the state average of 8,217.73. Data are current as of 4/7/2021 7:20:55 AM (CDT).

COVID-19 - Confirmed Cases

Report Area	Total Population	Total Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Cases, Rate per 100,000 Population
Armstrong	65,263	5,261	8,061.23
Pennsylvania	12,807,060	1,052,450	8,217.73
National	326,262,499	30,414,609	9,322.13

Data Source: Johns Hopkins University. Accessed via ESRI. Additional data analysis by CARES. 2020.
Source geography: County. Report date 4/7/2021

COVID-19 - Mortality

In the report area, there have been 120 total deaths among patients with confirmed cases of the coronavirus disease COVID-19. The mortality rate in the report area is 183.87 per 100,000 population, which is less than the state average of 196.90. Data are current as of 4/7/2021 7:20:55 AM (CDT).

COVID-19 - Mortality

Report Area	Total Population	Total Deaths	Death, Rate per 100,000 Population
Armstrong	65,263	120	183.87
Pennsylvania	12,807,060	25,217	196.90
National	326,262,499	548,739	168.19

Data Source: Johns Hopkins University. Accessed via ESRI. Additional data analysis by CARES. 2020.
Source geography: County. Report date 4/7/2021

COVID-19 - Positive Tests

This indicator reports contains data about COVID-19 tests in U.S. states. The table below displays the cumulative percentage of tests that were positive since testing was initiated, as well as the 7-day rolling average. Averages are used to account for inconsistencies in reporting (i.e., to smooth charts for days reporting only a small number of positive test results). This indicator stopped being updated by the source on March 7th, 2021.

COVID-19 - Positive Tests

Report Area	Total Population	Total Tests, Cumulative	Positive Tests, Total	Positive Tests, Percent
Pennsylvania	12,807,060	4,890,767	948,643	19.40%
National	326,262,499	103,146,063	28,744,916	27.87%

Data Source: The COVID Tracking Project. 2020. Source geography: State. Report Date 3/7/2021

COVID-19 - Testing Rate

This indicator reports contains data about COVID-19 tests in U.S. states. The table below displays the cumulative number of tests administered as a rate per 1,000 total population since testing was initiated, as well as the 7-day rolling average. Averages are used to account for inconsistencies in reporting (i.e., to smooth charts for days reporting only a small number of positive test results). This indicator stopped being updated by the source on March 7th, 2021.

COVID-19 – Testing Rate

Report Area	Total Population	Total Tests, Cumulative	Total Tests, Rate per 1,000 Population
Pennsylvania	12,807,060	4,890,767	381.88
National	327,167,434	103,146,063	315.27

Data Source: The COVID Tracking Project. 2020. Source geography: State. Report Date 3/7/2021

Social Distancing - Mobility Reports (Google)

The table below displays data from the Google mobility reports. These reports show how visits and length of stay at different places change compared to a baseline. The baseline is the median value, for the corresponding day of the week, during the 5-week period Jan 3–Feb 6, 2020. Google prepared this report to help you and public health officials understand responses to social-distancing guidance related to COVID-19. Within the report area, the number and length of visits to workplaces decreased by -18%, while trips to the grocery store or pharmacy increased by 11%. This compares to the statewide totals of -32% trips to workplaces and 1% trips to grocery stores and pharmacies.

Social Distancing – Mobility Report (Google)

Report Area	Retail and Recreation	Grocery and Pharmacy	Workplaces	Residential
Armstrong	5%	11%	-18%	5%
Pennsylvania	-6%	1%	-32%	9%
National	-6%	-2%	-31%	8%

Data Source: Google Mobility Reports. Accessed via GitHub. Mar 31, 2021. Source geography: County.
Report Date 3/31/2021

Needs Assessment:

General Population Survey Results

General Population Survey

The Armstrong County Community Action Agency developed and distributed a General Population Survey by a couple of means. A paper survey was handed out to residents of the County and clients to our Agency. These 157 surveys were then hand tabulated. In addition, the agency posted the same General Population Survey on-line so that anyone could answer the questions. The ACCAA advertised the availability of the survey and a link to respond. A total number of 12 residents answered the on-line survey. These surveys were computer tallied. Both tallies were then added together. In total, 169 people filled out the General Population Survey. The following were the accumulated results that were tabulated from these 169 surveys.

Question 1. What priority do you think the following issues/concerns should receive?

The first chart represents the tabulated results of the first question of the survey. There were three categories of response, low priority, medium priority, or high priority. Each category was assigned a correlating number to it. For instance, “Low Priority” was given a 1, “Medium Priority” a 2, “High Priority” a 3. The “Rating Average” was calculated as a weighted average. No numbers were assigned to the responses “No Answer” and “Don’t Know”. In other words, the number of responders who answered “Low Priority” was multiplied by the number assigned to it, a 1. The number of responders who answered “Medium Priority” was multiplied by 2, etc. All of these numbers were then added together and divided by the total number of responders for that question.

1.	Improve services for veterans	2.60
2.	Improve access to basic needs (food and shelter)	2.43
3/4/5.	Improve senior citizen services	2.40
3/4/5.	Expand job opportunities	2.40
3/4/5.	Increase services for domestic or sexual assault victims	2.40
6.	Increase wages of workers	2.36
7.	Improve housing of residents	2.34
8.	Improve health care availability	2.32
9.	Increase drug & alcohol treatment services	2.25
10.	Improve public transportation	2.21
11.	Improve children’s education	2.18
12.	Improve youth recreational programs	2.16
13.	Expand adult education/training	2.06
14.	Expand resources for family unit	2.05

Question 1. What priority do you think the following issues/concerns should receive?

Question 1		1-Low Priority	2-Med. Priority	3-High Priority	0-No answer
a	Improve public transportation	30	55	62	22
b	Improve housing of residents	30	42	83	14
c	Improve health care availability	31	43	81	14
d	Expand employment opportunities	20	53	82	14
e	Expand adult education/training	45	61	55	8
f	Expand resources for family unit	53	40	62	14
g	Increase drug & alcohol treatment services	36	53	77	3
h	Improve youth recreation programs	40	56	67	6
i	Improve access to basic needs (food & shelter)	12	68	84	5
j	Improve children's education	40	50	70	9
k	Increase wages of workers	27	47	84	11
l	Improve services for seniors	21	55	85	8
m	Increase services for domestic or sexual assault victims	20	42	82	25
n	Improve services for veterans	17	28	111	13

The next question on the General Population survey began a series of questions seeking responses to specific related issues. There were three answer options to this question: Never, Occasionally, and Often. Once again these questions were tabulated and a weighted average, using the same method as with question one, was performed. The only difference in this and all the following categories is that Never was given a “1”, Occasionally a “2”, and Often, a “3”.

2. How often has your household experienced the following TRANSPORTATION challenges in the last two years?

- a. Limited or no access to reliable vehicle 2.12
- b. Difficulty affording care maintenance 2.04
- c. Difficulty affording car insurance 2.03
- d. Difficulty affording public transportation 1.81
- e. Difficulty accessing public transportation 1.61

The raw data for question 2 looks like this:

Question 2		Never	Occasionally	Often	No answer
a		50	38	70	11
b		55	43	62	9
c		56	37	61	15
d		55	69	27	18
e		95	38	32	4

3. How often has your household experienced the following HOUSING challenges in the last 2 years?

a. Unable to afford heating and other utilities	1.80
b. Unable to find adequate housing	1.68
c. Finding home with affordable rent	1.66
d. Finding home with affordable mortgage	1.47
e. Experienced homelessness	1.27
f. Been evicted from your place of residence	1.22

The raw data for the HOUSING challenges question looks like this:

Question 3		Never	Occasionally	Often	No answer
a		73	53	41	2
b		80	36	33	20
c		82	42	30	15
d		86	27	17	39
e		126	31	7	5
f		106	22	4	37

4. How often has your household experienced the following EMPLOYMENT challenges in the last 2 years?

- a. Could not find job paying living wages 1.83
- b. Experienced lack of job training opportunities 1.68
- c. Could not find any employment 1.66
- d. Could not find employment for job skills 1.64
- e. Did not have transportation to job 1.37

The results of the raw data look like this:

Question 4					
a		85	32	7	4
b		71	32	21	4
c		82	25	18	3
d		77	31	15	4
e		56	34	29	7

5. How often has your household experienced the following HEALTH CARE challenges in the last 2 years?

- a. Could not afford to pay medical bills 1.97
- b. Had difficulty affording prescriptions 1.91
- c. Did not have transportation to medical appointments 1.72
- d. Area providers do not accept Medicaid or Medicare 1.70
- e. Lack of available doctors or dentists 1.67
- f. Did not have any health insurance 1.58

Here is the data used to calculate the above averages:

Question 5		Never	Occasionally	Often	Did not answer
a		62	37	58	12
b		52	60	39	18
c		73	53	30	13
d		82	52	32	3
e		86	47	32	4
f		78	52	17	22

6. How often has your household experienced the following ADULT EDUCATION challenges in the last 2 years?

- a. Did not have transportation to training/education 1.95
- b. Unable to afford additional training or education 1.62
- c. Unable to afford child care for education/training 1.56
- d. Access to post high school education/training 1.27

The following is the raw data for the adult educational challenges:

Question 6		Never	Occasionally	Often	Didn't answer
a		38	57	32	42
b		88	30	32	19
c		81	38	20	30
d		126	31	7	5

7. How often has your household experienced SENIOR CITIZEN related challenges in the last 2 years?

- a. Difficulty finding transportation for needed services 2.01
- b. Difficulty affording basic needs 1.39
- c. Difficulty getting caregiver relief 1.36
- d. Elderly abuse 1.10

Here is the senior citizen data totals:

Question 7		Never	Occasionally	Often	Did not answer
a		40	61	42	26
b		105	40	11	13
c		115	32	13	9
d		132	10	3	24

8. How often has your household experienced the following CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL challenges in the last 2 years?

- a. Unable to find preschool opportunities 1.34
- b. Public school not meeting the children's needs 1.31
- c. Finding programs for special needs children 1.26
- d. Finding information on educational resources 1.22
- e. Unable to afford pre-school opportunities 1.13

The following chart records all of the children's educational challenges responses.

Question 8		Never	Occasionally	Often	Did not answer
a		65	6	2	96
b		43	12	3	111
c		45	11	2	111
d		65	3	7	94
e		55	14	6	94

9. How often has your household experienced the following YOUTH related challenges in the last 2 years?

- a. Limited availability of after-school programs 1.52
- b. Unable to afford youth programs and events 1.42
- c. Limited availability of youth recreations programs 1.35
- d. Limited availability of youth mentoring programs 1.31

The compilation of the raw data looks like this for question 9:

Question 9		Never	Occasionally	Often	Did not answer
a		53	5	17	94
b		35	15	4	115
c		37	10	4	118
d		33	5	4	127

10. How often has your household experienced the following BASIC NEEDS challenges in the last 2 years?

- a. Difficulty affording food 2.15
- b. Unable to receive food assistance 1.79
- c. Difficulty affording utility or heating bills 1.63
- d. Difficulty affording rent or mortgage payments 1.60
- e. Unable to receive rent or mortgage assistance 1.60
- f. Unable to find assistance for being homeless 1.20

The Basic Needs raw data can be seen below:

Question 10		Never	Occasionally	Often	Did not answer
a		32	62	55	20
b		48	77	18	26
c		82	17	33	37
d		62	17	23	67
e		57	18	31	63
f		127	7	11	24

11. Have you or anyone you know struggled with drug addiction in the last two years?

Question 11		Yes	No	Don't know	Did not answer
		29	96	3	41

12. As a result of COVID-19:

- a. Has your housing situation changed 1.92
- b. Has your work condition changed 1.89
- c. Have you had medical challenges 1.32
- d. Are you experiencing difficulties at home 1.22
- e. Has your financial situation changed 1.17
- f. Have you had childcare challenges 1.16
- g. Has your mental health status changed 1.10

Question 12		Yes	No	Don't know	Did not answer
a		8	94	4	63
b		14	113	8	34
c		31	64	32	42
d		18	61	4	86
e		17	83	2	67
f		21	104	3	41
g		14	121	18	16

13. On a regular basis:

- a. I know how to make a budget 1.47
- b. I have enough money to pay my bills 1.37
- c. I have a savings account 1.20
- d. I use a payday cash advance/title loan agency 1.12

Question 13		Yes	No	Don't Know	Did not answer
a		65	71	16	17
b		51	84	18	16
c		31	124	0	14
d		18	132	0	19

14. CAA Assistance – How often has your family received assistance from Armstrong County Community Action Agency in the last two years?

Question 14		Housing	Food Bank	Weatherization	Medical Assistance Transportation Program
a		32	75	8	26

Below are the responses to question 14 of the General Population Survey:

Never	Once	Twice	Three Times or More
111	21	17	18

15. If you received help from the ACCAA, how satisfied were you with the services provided

Poor	Average	Good	Did Not Answer
28	61	48	32

16. In general, how would you rate the overall quality of services available to the following groups of people in the community?

Question 16		Poor	Average	Good
a	Children and Youth	0	18	61
b	Families	1	27	19c
c	Single Parents	0	14	29
d	Senior Citizens	10	12	31
e	Veterans	6	29	13
f	Persons with physical disabilities	3	41	8
g	Persons with mental health/intellectual disabilities	0	30	12
h	Low income individuals and families	0	18	43
i	Employees	0	0	2
j	Women	0	12	76

In an effort to compare all the issues that this survey attempted to address, we felt it important to rate all of the answer options to find out which ones were being experienced most often. In so doing, here are the highest average ratings that we tabulated:

TOP CHALLENGES EXPERIENCE BY THE PUBLIC IN THE LAST 2 YEARS

1 = Never experienced; 2 = Occasionally experienced; 3 = Often experienced

1	2.15	Difficulty affording food
2	2.12	Limited or no access to reliable vehicle
3	2.04	Difficulty affording car maintenance
4	2.03	Difficulty affording car insurance
5	2.01	Difficulty finding transportation for needed services
6	1.97	Could not afford to pay medical bills
7	1.95	Did not have transportation to training/education
8	1.91	Had difficulty affording prescriptions
9	1.80	Unable to afford heating and other utilities
10	1.81	Difficulty affording public transportation
11	1.83	Could not find job paying living wages
12	1.79	Unable to receive food assistance
13	1.72	Did not have transportation to medical appointments
14	1.70	Area providers do not accept Medicaid or Medicare
15/16	1.68	Unable to find adequate housing
15/16	1.68	Experienced lack of job training
17	1.67	Lack of available doctors or dentists
18	1.66	Could not find any employment
19	1.64	Could not find employment for job skills
20	1.63	Difficulty affording heating or utility bills

We then tried to rate the ten different categories that this survey attempted to address by taking an average score of all of the answer options in each category and scoring those categories accordingly.

General Population Survey

RATING CHALLENGES EXPERIENCE BY THE PUBLIC BY CATEGORY

1 = Never experienced; 2 = Occasionally experienced; 3 = Often experienced

1	2.11	Health Care Challenges
2	1.92	Transportation Challenges
3	1.66	Basic Needs Challenges
4	1.63	Employment Challenges
5	1.60	Adult Education Challenges
6	1.51	Housing Challenges
7/8	1.40	Senior Citizens Challenges
7/8	1.40	Youth Challenges
9	1.39	COVID-19 Challenges
10	1.25	Children's Education Challenges

17. What suggestions do you have for better meeting the needs of low-income citizens in our community?

General Population Suggestions

Assistance for low-income and senior citizens with repairs, transportation, food deliveries, mobility repairs.	17
More bus stops out of town	5
Assistance with medical bills, prescriptions and co-pays	5
More affordable housing	5
Help caring for grandchildren	5
Lower income guidelines	5
Assistance with obtaining driver's license, vehicle purchase, maintenance and insurance.	4
Raise Food Stamp amounts	4
Assist people in applying for Social Security Income	3
Assist people with mortgages and taxes	3
Distribute food bank more than once a month	1
More fresh produce and meats in food bank	1
Raise minimum wage	1
Assist senior citizens in finding employment	1
More youth recreation programs	1
More discounts for Veterans	1

18. What is your age?

18 to 24	1
25 to 34	23
35 to 44	23
45 to 54	27
55 to 64	30
65 to 74	18
75+	8
Did not answer	39

9. What is your approximate average household income? (Everyone in house added together)

\$0 to \$10,999	42
\$11,000 to \$24,999	50
\$25,000 to \$49,999	18
\$50,000 to \$74,999	3
\$75,000 to \$99,999	0
\$100,000 to \$124,999	0
\$125,000 to \$149,999	0
\$150,000 to \$174,999	0
\$175,000 to \$199,999	0
\$200,000+	0
Did not answer	56

20. Concerning the people currently living in your household.

What is the total number of persons in your household?

1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people	7 people	8 people
32	25	12	6	1	0	1	0

TOTAL PEOPLE

How many are between birth and age 3?	2
How many are between age 3 and age 5?	67
How many are in elementary school?	72
How many are in middle?	22
How many are in high school?	12
How many are between 18 and 60?	165
How many are ages 61 and above?	22



Strategic Plan

The Armstrong County Community Action Agency believes in the agency's mission statement that says that the "The Armstrong County Community Action Agency's mission is To plan, develop and serve as an incubator for programs that will assist the low-income and working poor individuals and families within Armstrong County, and surrounding areas, to achieve self-sufficiency." We feel it is important to oppose poverty and all of its barriers to the low-income and working poor population as well as opposing income inequality. There is tremendous wealth in this country, and with greater income equality there would be more for those who have so little, and plenty for those who now have so much. Yet even beyond challenging income inequality, there lies a broader vision. We believe that, whenever too many people fall too far behind the rest, it is a greater economic barrier for them. Whenever so many are excluded from position, education, and success, our nation and our local economy are diminished. We all strive to become a nation in which everyone lives with dignity and equal opportunity.

What we see as success in our work is reflected by our mission's statement and the barriers that are overcome every day by the work of our agency. We are building a foundation in our community where we strive to help the disadvantaged and low-income achieve their potential and prosper in the fullness of life. Our goal is to make them productive members of society who contribute to our local economy. This begins and ends with our mission and vision, and it is within this framework that we present our Community Action Plan for Armstrong County, PA.

Our vision is to be part of a powerful grassroots movement that will alter social policy and eliminate the need for governmental support. Our vision includes a region that is safe and supportive, where differences are celebrated and accepted, where everyone has enough to eat, homes are affordable, jobs are available that pay a living wage, schools are safe and welcoming for families and children, the divide between rich and poor is eliminated, children are nurtured and protected, and all community members achieve their potential and prosper in the fullness of life. In the absence of this achievement, we affirm the importance of supporting and defending a social safety net.

We acknowledge that what we learn from our planning process, how we conduct it, and the desired outcomes we generate, are closely tied to our overall mission and vision which is the way we see the world around us and our role in it. The underlying analysis of the power relationships in our economy and society that rests within our mission and vision has a profound impact on how we do our work, including the needs assessment process and planning.

When comparing Community Action Agencies across the state as well as in the nation, we are alike in mission but differ in approach which adds to our overall uniqueness. Many look at self-sufficiency solely as an individual characteristic or goal, while others also see self-sufficiency as something that a community can build upon and provide support with its members. Some see themselves as opposing poverty, while others are more centered on building towards political and economic justice.

In our Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan process, we attempt to get at the connections among all the issues that people with low-incomes face and to expose the underlying causes. For instance, we try to focus, not only on problems, but also on the strengths and abilities of the people we serve. Our culture tells us to look at negatives when it comes to people who have little money, to focus on problems and blame. Unfailingly, we find it far more constructive, and inspirational, to focus on the positives and to help muster the resources people need to set and reach their own goals, within their own frameworks of success.

We firmly believe that we can accomplish this mission only when our activities are directed by and inclusive of people with low incomes. Our efforts will be in response to our local needs, with an awareness of national trends and policies, organized within strong community-wide partnerships, and respectful of and sensitive to the diversity and strengths of all community members.

We accomplish our mission on a daily basis through interaction with our low-income clients:

- Providing support services and offering basic human needs to sustain and assist them in their daily living;
- Developing opportunities for people who are determined to be low-income;
- Increasing public awareness about the challenges people with low-incomes face;
- Ensuring that the low-income persons take a leadership role in the decisions that affect their lives;
- Advocating for all low-income persons making them aware of the resources available to them in communities; and

- Serve as an incubator for services to assist the poverty population and to lessen their dependence on governmental programs leading them to a self-sufficient and self-sustaining way of life.

Strengths

The Armstrong County Community Action Agency, and Armstrong County as a whole, have numerous strengths in which we can rely upon in our anti-poverty efforts. Some of these strengths are:

- **Low cost-of-living.** Most of those items that are characterized as essential in determining the cost of living are generally reasonably priced in Armstrong County. Those main items are housing, food and utilities.
- **Abundance of natural resources.** There are few areas of the County that can say there is a scarcity of some natural resource. Clean water can be found throughout the county. Natural gas is found in most of the county and has led to Marcellus Shale reserves. What appears to be difficult and cost prohibitive is the infrastructure needed to bring these resources to the general population.
- **A willing and able work force.** Although there is an above average poverty rate in Armstrong County, the majority of those in poverty are the working poor. There is a strong work ethic in our community. It was established through the generations in our families where you were told it was your responsibility to never miss work and take pride in your job. This “generational work ethic” makes for a reliable and dependable work force. Most believe that the dignity of life can only be achieved by hard work without the need of a handout.
- **ACCAA experience.** Our agency staff is very knowledgeable and experienced in the programs and services that we provide as an agency. Many partnerships have been built over the years. There has been little turnover in agency staff throughout the 56 year history.
- **Community Partners.** We have a tight knit partnership in our county with staff, board, County government, and other agencies who are looking out for the welfare of our county residents. For the most part, the ACCAA has enjoyed the cooperation, collaboration, and coordination of all institutions for which we work in providing the services for those most at-risk in our community for decades.
- **Lower crime rate than the State norm.** This was one of the highest rated priority in the needs assessment. The fact of the matter is, statistically speaking, Armstrong County is still a relatively safe place to live.

Weaknesses

- **Lack of infrastructure.** Although resources are abundant, certain areas of the County do lack the needed infrastructure for the development of additional employment opportunities as well as housing initiatives.
- **Lack of good paying jobs.** This has been a repeated theme within our rural community for a number of years. The County Commissioners work on attracting industry and businesses to our area but we still are far below the Pittsburgh wage. It was also the number one issue listed in the stakeholder's survey of the needs assessment.
- **Aging population.** Although aging itself may not be a weakness, it is certainly indicative of the need for more and more aging supportive services. This fact may also be the result of a lack of jobs, as those people of working age may go elsewhere to find employment.
- **Increase of drug use.** Although we have stated that Armstrong County is still relatively safe when in comparison to the rest of the Country, there is still an increase in drug use in the County. As stated in the Needs Assessment Executive Summary, Armstrong County has the second highest drug related per capita death rate in the State.
- **Work force.** The work force in our county is trained for an old economy. This could be because many of those who are trained in high-tech fields must leave the area to find work. More people travel Route #28 South into Pittsburgh to receive the Pittsburgh wage, especially in high tech jobs. Our county residents are going out-of-county to get higher wages.

Introduction to ROMA

Armstrong County Community Action Agency's Strategic Plan establishes objectives and strategies that are linked to National Results Orientated Management and Accountability (ROMA) goals. Each objective and strategy is connected to a responsible party, a timeframe for completion, and the desired outcome. Each ROMA goal, along with related objectives, strategies and priorities is presented below.

History and purpose of ROMA

ROMA was created in 1994 by an ongoing national task force of Federal, state, and local Community Action Agency officials called the Monitoring and Assessment Task Force (MATF.) According to the principles contained in the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, ROMA was presented as the framework for continuous growth and improvement among community action agencies nation-wide providing a basis for state leadership, guidance and structure.

Since 1994, the Community Services Network has been guided by six broad anti-poverty goals established by the MATF as follows:

- Goal 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient.
- Goal 2: The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.
- Goal 3: Low-income people own a stake in their community.
- Goal 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of service to low-income people are achieved.
- Goal 5: Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.
- Goal 6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieving their potential by strengthening the family and other supportive systems.

To accomplish these goals, local community action agencies have been encouraged to initiate a number of ROMA implementation actions that focus on results-oriented management and results-oriented accountability:

Results-Oriented Management

- Assess poverty needs and conditions within the community;
- Define a clear agency anti-poverty mission for community action and a strategy to address those needs, both immediate and longer term, in the context of existing resources and opportunities in the community;
- Identify specific improvements, or results, to be achieved among low-income people and the community; and
- Organize and implement programs, services, and activities, such as advocacy, within the agency and among “partnering” organizations, to achieve anticipated results.

Results-Oriented Accountability

- Develop and implement strategies to measure and record improvements in the condition of low-income people and the communities in which they live that result from community action intervention;
- Use information about outcomes, or results, among agency tripartite boards and staff to determine the overall effectiveness, inform annual and long-range planning, support agency advocacy, funding, and community partnership activities.

State CSBG lead agencies and state Community Action Agency Associations have been encouraged to work as a team to advance ROMA performance-based concepts among local agencies through on-going training and technical assistance. The PA Department of Community and Economic Development Office have provided training and technical assistance in all aspects of ROMA implementation throughout the history of the initiative, including:

- Grants to state and local agencies to develop model ROMA measures, strategies, and information tracking systems;
- Grants to national, state and local entities to create training and technical assistance materials for use by the network;
- Grants to implement statewide strategic planning and program renewal, performance measurement and reporting, expanded partnerships with other service providers;
- Grants to collect and report state and national ROMA outcome information; and
- Grants to establish and maintain national ROMA technical assistance resources

PA State CSBG Service Categories

The PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) allocate Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding and provides structural guidance in program operation. In this process, DCED has established service categories we utilize to classify the agency goals and objectives we plan to do. We use this categorical listing for all agency program services, whether it is CSBG funded or Non-CSBG related, to show the whole picture of the agency. (The CSBG services are always bolded type in grants or on reports to distinguish them from the remainder of other department's services.) The services are classified under one of the following categories: *Housing, Emergency Services, Employment, Income Management, Linkages, Self-Sufficiency, and Other.* (We utilize the first six categories listed above.)

Agency ROMA Goals

In addition to offering services and increasing agency capacity as outlined above, Community Action will continue to provide advocacy and high quality services through its many programs. Each CSBG National Goal and Performance Indicator (NPI) is listed below with the programs that provide services relevant to that Goal and Performance Indicator. Our agency keeps abreast of the changes in ROMA National Performance Standards, assesses agency performance in relation to these standards, and ensures that performance standards are met within required time frames.

ROMA Goals & Performance Indicators

Each of the six National ROMA Goals has multiple Performance Indicators pertaining to what service we are providing to county residents. The categories are Housing, Nutrition, Self-

Sufficiency, Employment, Education, Income Management, Linkages, Health and Other. We determine our goals *to achieve and list them under one of the nine categories listed.*

COPOS Reporting

The Community Organization Planning and Outcome System (COPOS) enables grantees to submit Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) target and performance data to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). COPOS collects data on the entire Pennsylvania system of Community Services Block Grant eligible entities and it parallels the data collected through the Community Services Block Grant Information Survey (CSBG-IS) administered by the National Association of Community Services Program (NASPCSP).

DCED and the federal government will use this information to evaluate the effectiveness of Community Action Agencies in Pennsylvania. COPOS is Pennsylvania's recognized electronic reporting format to collect information regarding the programs administered by CSBG eligible entities. COPOS is the only data collection tool that will be used by DCED to complete the CSBG-IS. Data reported through COPOS will assist agencies to prioritize their resources and achieve outcomes. Data will be provided to Congress and other federal departments to demonstrate how CSBG eligible entities improve local communities.

For each CSBG Program year, such as FY 2021, we submit the CSBG Plan information in December 2020 for the program year running on a calendar year January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021 to the Department of Community and Economic Development in Harrisburg. We submit our goals and objectives into the COPOS data collection system and report on services we offer as an agency, the clients we serve, initiatives we take on and the overall outcomes achieved.

Strategic Plan Overview

This strategic plan supports Armstrong County Community Action Agency's overall objective of being a high functioning, multi-faceted organization, widely known in the community for innovative programming; competent, experienced staff; the engagement, commitment and oversight of its' board; and its' strong partnerships with other organizations that share our commitment to addressing human needs. Every Community Action Agency is on a three-year

planning cycle. Each agency is required to complete needs assessment and planning activities and has substantial latitude in the process of how this is completed based on local low-income needs, agency capacity and organizational development needs. This planning cycle is an extremely important element in our fulfillment in addressing local needs, developing and leveraging local resources, and stimulating community engagement in addressing local issues relating to poverty.

Community Action takes this charge seriously and has invested considerable resources in gathering and analyzing data, and based on that, generating strategic directions to move the agency and our county forward. Adapting to the changes and needs identified in the needs assessment process makes our agency more effective, stable, and sustainable while remaining true to our mission of promoting economic justice and improving the quality of life for people in our county who are disadvantaged.

Our agency recognizes that strategic planning is about setting broad goals and ensuring that ongoing planning systems and accountability structures are in place to move the agency toward those goals while making adjustments based on local needs, new opportunities, and available resources. We maintain that both the process and the ends must be consistent with our Community Action Agency's (1) values and competence; (2) organizational leadership shared among participants, staff, and management; (3) building partnership across many sectors; and (4) using an approach that recognizes and respects the strengths and aspirations of all community members, including the low-income population.

Strategic planning activities are essential to our work with the mission and the goals expressing a shared vision for our agency. Regular conversations about our values, key concepts, and goals between the board members and the agency staff help us in the planning process to review and revise the agency's mission, values, approaches, and visions. The dedicated staff is recognized and they are the major vehicle through which we accomplish our goals through service delivery as well as how our values translate into workplace practices on a daily basis. It is the guidance and insight provided to the agency by our committed board of directors that adds to our overall success as an agency.

Our agency's goals and activities are reviewed at our Annual General Meeting of the Public. A review of the services provided and the outcomes achieved takes place. We also measure customer satisfaction at least once a year and the agency management staff discusses the results with the board. While management and board perspectives are paramount, we value the input of frontline staff and participants highly since they are the closest to the issues they and the agency face on a daily basis. In order to develop greater capacity to consistently staying current with

programmatic and management best practices and identifying strategies that appear promising for our organization and our communities, we must review our service delivery and the outcomes on a regular basis.

Coordination of Services/Partnerships

In respect to coordination of services, we continually collaborate in-house as well as with many other county agencies in order to ensure that program participants have access to seamless and quality support. Continual collaboration also gives our community partners a clear avenue of access and communication with us as an agency. Measurement of customer satisfaction includes data related to coordination of services, which then inform the process of improving internal coordination and overall service delivery to the low-income population. (See listing of Community Partners following this section.)

As the governing body of the agency, the Armstrong County Community Action Agency Board of Directors is vital in overseeing the agency's mission and programs, and ensuring its overall programmatic and financial stability. The agency has changed and grown in the past two decades and is providing services that coincide with the identified needs in our county. The board of directors reviews the data collected and, with Administrative Leadership Team, makes an assessment on what avenue the agency should follow to address the identified needs. Funding is reviewed to see what dollar amount will be associated with tackling the identified need. It is a coordinated effort that takes place between the community responding to the survey information, the board of directors' involvement, and the Administrative Leadership Team and employees.

Our agency has developed a greater capacity for data management training, data analysis, and systematic planning in the last few years due to the Needs Assessment Process. This is a coordinated effort among the Administrative Leadership Team and the agency staff. We always strive to involve staff and participants in the process of data analysis as much as possible. This Community-Wide Needs Assessment process assists us in our planning and, ultimately, keeps us relevant in our service delivery by identifying needs and presenting solutions to many of the current problems faced by our disadvantaged population.

The Administrative Leadership Team of the agency is continually seeking ways to improve staff development and realizes the overall importance of a positive working environment in regard to wellness and productivity. We also encourage our employees in the areas of staff skill development by supporting them in attending trainings and webinars on a regular basis. Annual salary increments for staff are contingent upon the availability of funding.

The Administrative Leadership Team has established an improved provision of support for supervisors in assessing, planning, implementing, and assuring program service compliance. This team is hands-on in providing training in researching grant monies and grant writing for all department directors and coordinators. They provide assistance and encouragement to program directors in the areas of budgeting, data management, program operations, personnel, and human resource issues. This established partnership within the agency contributes to the overall success when it comes to employee retention and staff development.

Periodic re-evaluation of our mission, identity, and priorities through a broad-based, inclusive process also lays the groundwork for a comprehensive plan for leadership development at all levels within the agency. The Administrative Leadership Team, which includes the Executive Director, Fiscal Director and Human Resource Director, works one-on-one with the program directors in all aspects of the daily operations of their programs which add stability and productiveness. Agency leadership, in conjunction with the Personnel Committee of the board and the Board of Directors, will determine if there are any staffing needs within the agency. This partnership process helps us to build upon the foundation of the ROMA cycle to develop planning systems for the delivery of services on a daily basis.

The Administrative Leadership Team will also fulfill coordinating and oversight roles until planning systems are more fully instituted. The community needs assessment and the strategic plan will be reviewed and updated at least once a year, with input from the Board of Directors, Leadership Team, other staff, and program participants. In addition to offering services and increasing agency capacity as outlined above, our agency will continue with the same passion as we had when our agency was established in March 1965 to provide advocacy and high quality services through daily operations.

Community Partners

The following is an extensive list of Armstrong County Community Action Agency community partners categorized by the nine CSBG service categories:

Non Profit - 65

American Legion Apollo

American Legion Kittanning
ARC Manor
ARIN Intermediate Unit #28
Armstrong County Community Foundation
Armstrong County Educational Trust
Armstrong Indiana Behavior and Developmental Health Programs
Butler County Commissioners
CCIS - Child Care Information Services
CCR -Center for Community Resources
Charities Aid Foundation
Disaster Relief of Armstrong County
Dress for Success
Drug & Alcohol
Eagles Kittanning
Elks Apollo
Family A.C.T.S.
Family Counseling
Family Counseling Worthington
Fayette County Community Action Programs
Fire Hall Adrian
Fire Hall Bethel
Fire Hall Dayton
Fire Hall Elderton
Fire Hall Parker
Fire Hall Rayburn
Fire Hall Sugarcreek
Fire Hall Worthington

Glade Run Lutheran Services
GPCFB - Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Grace Christian School
Habitat for Humanity
HAVIN - Helping Abuse Victims In Need
Head Start
Helping Hands
ICAAP - Indiana County Community Action Program
Jefferson/Clarion County Community Action
KDKA Turkey Fund
Laurel Legal Services
LCAAP - Lawrence County Community Action Programs
Lifesteps Inc.
Lighthouse Butler
Lions Club
Manorville Development Corporation
Mechling-Shakley Veterans Center
MHMR
Operation Warm
Progressive Workshop
Red Cross
Salvation Army Apollo
Salvation Army Butler
Salvation Army Kittanning
Salvation Army Leechburg
Slovak CU Club
Snyder Foundation

St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store
Tri-County Workforce Investment Board (Tri-Co. WIB)
Turkey Federation
United Way Freeport
United Way Kittanning
UPMC - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
VFW - Veterans of Foreign War
Westmoreland Community Action
Worthington Senior Center
YMCA - Young Men's Christian Association

Local Government - 18

AAA - Area Agency on Aging
Armstrong County Assistance Office - CAO
Armstrong County Jail
Armstrong County Probation
Belmont Complex
Children & Youth Services CYS
Commissioners Armstrong County
Controller's Office of Armstrong County
County Treasurer
Courts of Armstrong County
District Attorney Office
Domestic Relations Services
Economic Development
Information Technology - IT

Planning & Development

Public Defender

Public Safety of Armstrong County

Sheriff's Office

Faith Based - 21

Catholic Charities

Christ Rupp Lutheran

Church of God

Faith Presbyterian

First Methodist

Ford City Catholic

Ford City Methodist

Grace Presbyterian

Greensburg Diocese

Harvest Community

Leechburg FB

Manorville United Methodist

New Life Center

Numine FB

Order of the Eastern Star

Salem United

St. John's Lutheran

Union Ave. United Methodist

Union First Presbyterian

United Methodist Women

United Rockville Lutheran

State Government - 17

Commonwealth of PA

DCED - Department of Community and Economic Development

Department of Agriculture

Department of Drug & Alcohol

Department of Education

Department of Health

Department of Human Services

Department of Labor & Industry

Department of Revenue

House of Representatives

Housing Finance Agency

Office of the Budget

OVR - Occupational & Vocational Rehabilitation

PA CareerLink

PA State Police

Senate

Turnpike Commission

Federal Government - 15

Administration for Children & Families - ACF

Census Bureau

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Civil Rights - HHS

Department of Agriculture - USDA

Department of Education

Department of Energy - DOE

Department of Health & Human Services - HHS

Department of Housing & Urban Development -HUD

Department of Labor - DOL

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission - EEOC

Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity - FHEO

Occupational Safety & Health Administration - OSHA

Post Office

Social Security Administration –SSA

Financial/Banking Institutions - 4

Armstrong County Federal Employees Federal Credit Union

First National Bank

NexTier Bank

Northwest Bank

Institutions Post-Secondary - 3

Butler County Community College - BC3

Indiana University of PA - IUP

PA College of Technology - Penn Tech

School Districts - 4

Apollo

Armstrong

Freeport

Leechburg

Consortiums/Collaborations - 9

Crime Stoppers Apollo

CYS Roundtable

Dr. William Oleksak

Grandma's House

Local Fire Departments

Pittsburgh Zoo

SEEDS Giant Eagle

Tickets for Kids

Tom Toy

Statewide Associations or Collaborations – 9

Commissioner's Association

Community Action Association of PA

Community Judicial Advisory Board - CJAB

COPOS Task Force

Human Resource

Local Management Committee - LMC

PA ROMA Professionals

PASCHA

WX Assistance Program Network Call

For Profit Business or Corporation - 37

Aldi's Market

Allegheny Power

Armstrong Comfort Solutions

Armstrong County Memorial Hospital - ACMH

Barker Bros.

Beck's Produce

Bradigan's Heating

Cousin's Realty

Crooked Creek Park

CWM Environmental

DiMaio's Market

Dollar General

Fox's Pizza

Franklin Village Shop N Save

FrontStream

Giant Eagle

Glenn Bush Ford FB

Greener Solutions4Life

Imler's Poultry

Keystone Power Plant

Marion Center Supply

Mel's Pizzeria

Mills Chiropractic

Municipal Finance Partners

Myer's Transportation

North Aire-Ride

Nutrition, Inc.

OZ Cmplx

Rosebud Mining

Sheetz

Smithfield Foods

Sprinkle's Market

Stiller's Motorsports

Town and Country Transit - TACT

Toy's Meat Processing

Vocelli's Pizza

WalMart

Health Service Organizations - 5

Armstrong County CAO CHIPS Program

Armstrong Pediatrics Association

Health Service Organization

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield

UPMC Health Care

ACCAA Plans for the Future

Once again, the Armstrong County Community Action Agency has decided to prioritize all programs that address the basic human needs of food and shelter. By prioritizing these types of programs, the Agency can assist the most indigent Armstrong County residents in obtaining assistance that represents elements essential for human life. Nothing that any anti-poverty agency does can be more important than providing food and housing for its constituent population. In fact, if a program should arise that can further assist clients with these basic human needs, it should be pursued, providing the Agency's entrance into the program does not interfere or create a problem with another Agency already successfully fulfilling this need.

With the above thought in mind, the following programs that are presently operated by the ACCAA are deemed priorities and should be continued: Food Bank, Emergency Food and Shelter, Senior Food Boxes, Homeless Assistance Program, the three Continuum of Care Programs, Supportive Services for Veteran Families, Dollar Energy, Utility Fuel Funds, Emergency Solutions Grant, Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention, Emergency Solutions Grant Veterans Program. Two programs that are closely aligned with the shelter aspect are Weatherization and PHARE Emergency Housing. PHARE, as is all programs operated by the Agency, is dependent upon the availability of funding.

Phase 1 Food Bank Warehouse Project:

With the assistance of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Neighborhood Assistance Program, the ACCAA has been successful in the construction of a pole building that is used for the warehouse for the Armstrong County Food Bank. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) was the contributor and the primary reason for the success of this NAP project.

Phase 2 Food Bank Warehouse Project:

Once again with the assistance of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Neighborhood Assistance Program, the ACCAA has been successful in completing improvements to the Armstrong County Food Bank warehouse. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) was the contributor and the primary reason for the success of this NAP project. Phase 2 included the following:

- Closing in the interior walls of the warehouse with a wood product so that the insulation can be protected during distribution from accidental tearing;

- Construction of a small office within the warehouse to be used by food bank staff;
- Designing and production of signage for the warehouse;
- Purchase and installation of shelving units within the building;
- Installing security cameras;
- Installing an internet bridge;
- Installing a dock leveler/bumper pads;
- Raising the floor of the truck dock;
- Purchasing an electric forklift;
- Purchasing a 12' x 23" Cooler;
- Purchasing a 40 inch sliding glass door refrigerator on wheels, and a solid reach in freezer on wheels;
- moving the 20x20 freezer in the warehouse to the cement pad that was poured outside the warehouse;
- The cement floor was sealed to cut down on the dust; and
- The wiring was for the freezers

Phase 3 Food Bank Project:

Once again with the assistance of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Neighborhood Assistance Program, the ACCAA has been successful in assisting the community in this time of need. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) was the contributor and the primary reason for the success of this NAP project. Phase 3 included the following:

Cleaning/Hygiene Supplies for Food Bank Clients. Includes disinfectant, Lysol, laundry detergent, various personal hygiene products, dish washing soap, toilet paper, paper towels and other paper products such as paper plates, etc.

CSBG Cares Act:

Our agency received CSBG-CARES funds in 2020. With these funds the agency was able to curb the blow to Armstrong County's vulnerable residents at a time where they once were stable, working families and now, for the first time, are facing difficult times to provide for their families. With the effects of COVID-19 the past several months, basic human needs such as food, shelter, and health care needs have become the priority in our community. We evaluated our current programs as well as other community programs and prioritized the following plan to meet these needs.

Food – Our foodbank has seen a 30% increase in the number of families accessing emergency food. Our SNAP outreach worker has been contacting these new families to enroll them in SNAP benefits. We believe there still exists a need for food assistance in our community and that there are families that have never had to access food assistance until now. Our intent is to increase our outreach efforts to help make families aware of the services available to help them not just with food, but with other basic needs such as cleaning supplies, soap, and personal hygiene.

Mortgage Assistance – Many of the housing programs we operate offer assistance with emergency shelter and homeless prevention through rental assistance. We see that rental assistance needs are met, especially now with additional CARES funding through other housing sources. We are proposing to offer assistance with mortgage payments. As with all services, we will be working in conjunction with other programs available such as PHFA assistance and our other housing programs.

Utility Assistance – With CSBG income eligibility increasing to 200%, we believe this will enable us to assist families that do not qualify for LIHEAP or Crisis programs. Once again we anticipate serving many first-time families that previously were self-sufficient and stable, that now find themselves needing assistance for the first time due to unemployment because of COVID-19.

Health Insurance/Prescriptions – There really is no funding available to assist with health insurance. There are some prescription drug plans/cards that do help with a portion of the cost of medications, but for some individuals such as cancer patients, those prescription drug costs can be devastating. Coupled with the loss of income due to unemployment layoffs, many families are facing difficult choices between paying rent/mortgage, utilities, buying food and keeping their families safe and healthy.

The ACCAA is always looking toward expanding the donations of food, either through the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, or from other private sources. The ACCAA hopes to continue receiving food donations from Wal-Mart and Aldi in the next three years, and perhaps even locating other nearby sources of donations.

The ACCAA has been instrumental in forming a local housing advisory group that meets on a quarterly basis. This group is Armstrong County's equivalent of a Local Housing Options Team

(LHOT.) The existence of an LHOT is extremely important in maintaining Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care funding. The Agency needs to continue to spearhead this local advisory committee so that our County can continue getting funding to help the homeless in our community.

The Agency must continue to search for a way to fund an emergency shelter in the County. The ACCAA has been successful in applications with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency for PHARE (Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund) money to do a scattered site rental emergency housing project. The Agency must continue to work with its partners; Armstrong County Children and Youth Services, Armstrong Indiana Behavioral and Developmental Health Program (AIBDHP), Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission, Armstrong County Jail and the Armstrong Area Agency on Aging and keep applying for PHARE funding until another source of funding can be found. Presently, this PHARE Emergency Housing Program is the only homeless shelter in the County outside of the HAVIN (Helping Abuses Victims In Need) shelter for the abused.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development strongly urges agencies funded with Continuum of Care funding to have staff on hand to provide SOAR training to its clients. SOAR stands for SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery. The program provides assistance to those who are applying for SSI or SSDI benefits with the Social Security Administration. They have found that those who have gone through the training have a much better approval rating for receiving benefits. Presently, three staff have been trained in SOAR. The Agency should continue to maintain SOAR trained staff.

In 2018, the Agency worked collaboratively with the Armstrong, Indiana, Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission (AICDAC) to apply for Department of Human Services funding under a grant program called "Support Services Navigation & Housing Services for Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder". The ACCAA was to provide the housing services part of the grant, and AICDAC was to provide the case management and recovery support systems for these unfortunate clients. The ACCAA should continue to look for opportunities to assist our partner agencies in fighting the scourge of drug addiction.

Furthermore, the Agency should look into providing training to case managers for identifying addictive behaviors in Agency clients, and what to do about it when it is found.

As part of the case management for many of our Agency programs, the ACCAA should consider expanding financial literacy training to our clients. This has been a problem witnessed by Agency staff for a number of years. Many clients can't even balance a check book. However, the problem is far more reaching than that. Skills such as borrowing and lending, budgeting,

mortgages, pay-day loans, etc. need to be taught. The Agency should continue to look for funding to help pay for this type of activity.

The ACCAA has provided guidance, coordination, and assistance to the County in the various areas of human services. The Agency attends meetings of the Pennsylvania Association of County Human Service Administrators which is associated closely with the County Commissioners Association. The Agency coordinates the operation of most of the homeless programs in the County. The agency should continue to assist the County in whatever the Commissioners feel that we can best assist them in performing these functions.

Funding Strategy

We live in uncertain times, although unemployment rates are on the decline, the low income population of Armstrong County still faces an environment of high prices, low wages, and tougher and tougher local and national budget cuts that slash away at the supports people need to just make ends meet. Fulfilling our mission as an agency down the road into the future will be a definite challenge for us all. We will continue to apply for renewal funding for our programs, whether they be Federal, State or private funding, in order to continue our mission as an agency. We will also research and apply for available funding for new and innovative programming that will address the needs that we identified in our county. As a Community Action Agency, we will continue to address the basic needs of our low-income population, educate them on available resources that are available to help them and remain an advocate for their needs.

Our agency prides itself on our strong Fiscal Management of close to thirty-two programs under the agency umbrella. In the past, when we experienced the repercussions of not having an approved state budget by the June 30th deadline, our Fiscal Director and Executive Director, kept the agency operating status quo without interruption. Through this process, we did not have to lay off any employees and we did not have to draw down on any of the lines of credit established at our bank. This speaks volumes about our fiscal management of the agency and our strategic planning abilities. We have established networks with all of the funding sources that we are involved with and have good rapport with them. Managing the agency, both fiscally and programmatically, and fulfilling our mission, is of the utmost priority.

Our agency uses our Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds to support programs and administrative capacity in strategic ways based on community need and on our priorities for increasing agency capacity relative to the needs of the programs. When all else fails and there are no funds to pay for administrative costs for much valued programs, CSBG funding is used to

assist in this area to provide valuable services. Our CSBG funding has been critical in our ability to serve as “the place to turn to when you need help” of any kind or need advice on resources to help break the cycle of poverty. On a more administrative side, CSBG grant has played a key role in positioning ourselves well with funders by being able to document what we have accomplished with more sophisticated data management systems and in mobilizing advisory groups within our community to collectively solve problems, such as the County Housing Advisory Group helping to solve problems with homelessness.

In the upcoming years, we will aggressively pursue funding opportunities in key areas that we have significant expertise including:

- Affordable Housing, especially in the area of Low-Income Senior Housing;
- Seek opioid funding to provide housing and supportive services to those in recovery;
- Locating donations of additional food for the food bank, including fresh fruits and vegetables and developing new partnerships;
- Continue to apply for renewal funds for programs we currently operate that further the mission of the agency and provide basic human needs;
- Seek funding for any newly identified initiative that represents a need that we should be addressing as determined by our governing board; and
- Seek funding to assist the residents of Armstrong County with vehicle repairs in order to assist them with job retention;

Therefore, the purpose of the our 2021-2023 Community Action Plan, containing the Community-wide Needs Assessment and the Strategic Plan, is to gather pertinent information identifying community need to assess the best use of CSBG funding to tackle the problems. CSBG funding can provide a full range of services and activities that have a measurable and potentially major impact on the causes of poverty in the community. Thus, this is encouraging and supporting a holistic approach to moving low-income families and individuals from poverty into a self-sufficient and self-sustaining way of life becoming productive members of society.