



Gloucester, Cumberland and Salem County Community Resource Funds Background and Rationale Fiscal Year 2023

The NJ Children's System of Care (CSOC) and CGS Family Partnership, Inc, (CGS) are committed to supporting the resiliency of youth and families in Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties. CSOC through CGS is offering Community Resource Development (CRD) funds to support new or existing activities or services offered by community providers which directly promote child and family wellbeing, safety, and health.

This one-time CRD funds amount of \$68, 678. 46 (less may be applied for) must be utilized in full by June 30, 2023.

Proposals submitted must have a sustained impact, with the CRD funds serving as seed funding for start-up program, program resource or service, or expansion of an existing program, resource or service. Applicants must commit to working in partnership with CGS Family Partnership, other system partners, and community-based resources. Proposals must embody the values of the NJ Children's System of Care.

While Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem are different geographic localities they have in common the lack of affordable housing, minimal awareness of existing services, long wait lists for services, transportation challenges, and stigma attached to seeking mental/ behavioral health services. The ongoing COVID pandemic continues to impede our youth and families' ability to make meaningful contact with available services. The pandemic also highlighted weakened areas in service provision and service awareness.

In the most recent independent Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) Needs Assessment for Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties from 2019-2020 the following need areas were highlighted:

Cumberland's 4 Prioritized Needs:

- Housing
- Community Safety
- Behavioral Health Services for Adults
- Behavioral Health Services for Children.

“According to the Rutgers County data profile, when compared to other counties, Cumberland County showed a greater need in: Families with children under the age of 18 living in poverty, median household income, food insecurity, cost of transportation as a percentage of income in NJ, children under the age of 18 without health insurance, median unemployment rates across counties, violent crime rate (per 1,000), juvenile arrest rates (per 1,000), and frequency of depression.

Cumberland County's crime rate is one of the highest in the state. Most violent crimes in this county were attributed to aggravated assault and robbery and most nonviolent crimes were attributed to larceny. Without accounting for population size, this county has the 3rd highest juvenile arrest rate in the state. This rate has decreased slightly between 2012 and 2016 and is higher than the rate for NJ. In Cumberland County, most mental health programs available are outpatient services and the estimated frequency of depression is higher than the state average”.

Data Source: [CumberlandCountyHSACNeedsAssessmentReport2020.pdf \(nj.gov\)](#)

Gloucester’s 4 Prioritized Needs:

- Housing
- Healthcare
- Behavioral/Mental Health Services Adults
- Behavioral/Mental Health Services for Children

“During the community Human Service Advisory Council survey process, housing, health care, behavioral/mental health for adults and behavioral/mental health for children emerged as priorities as the most frequently selected basic and service needs. Housing was selected by 67% of respondents and 58% selected health care as priority basic needs; 78% of respondents selected behavioral/mental health for adults and 60% selected behavioral/mental health for children as priority service needs.”

Data Source: [Gloucester County Needs Assessment Report 2020.pdf \(nj.gov\)](#)

Salem’s 4 Prioritized Needs:

- Employment & Career Services
- Housing
- Behavioral Health / Mental Health Services for Adults
- Transportation

In 2020 there were 644 calls to Perform Care from Salem County for youth and family services. Perform Care links youth and families to resources they may need to maintain their well-being.

The State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has a Municipal Revitalization Index (MRI) which measures and ranks the State’s distressed communities. According to the MRI, Salem City in Salem County was ranked the second most distressed city in New Jersey. This MRI done in 2017, ranks New Jersey’s municipalities in eight indicators which include social, economic, physical, and fiscal conditions in each locality.

Data Source: [Salem County Needs Assessment Report 2020.pdf \(nj.gov\)](#)

All applications for these funds will be reviewed and scored via a selection panel consisting of various CGS and community members such as: the CGS Chief Executive Officer, CGS Director of Community Resources, CGS Community Resource Manager, various CGS Board Members and staff, Family Support Organization staff, parents, and members of the Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC) Youth Services Commission (YSC), and Human Service Advisory Council (HSAC).

Thank you,

James Sampson

Director of Community Resources