

**CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT**

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2005 OCT 27 PM 12:06

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Department of Human Services
DATE: November 8, 2005

RE: **ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES OAKLAND COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP
(OCAP) PROGRAM**

SUMMARY

This informational report provides City Council with an annual update on the activities and accomplishments of the Department of Human Services Oakland Community Action Partnership (OCAP) Program.

FISCAL IMPACT

This report is informational only; no fiscal impacts are included.

BACKGROUND

In 1964 President Lyndon Johnson declared "war on poverty" and signed into law the Economic Opportunity Act. The Act created funding for Job Corps, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), Head Start, Legal Aid, and Neighborhood Health Centers. In 1971, the City of Oakland received designation as a public Community Action Agency authorized to receive federal funding from the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) to administer various anti-poverty programs and services for Oakland's low-income residents; as a result, the City of Oakland's Head Start program was established. The Community Services Block Grant funds are administered and managed by the State's Department of Community Services & Development (CSD). Each jurisdiction's allocation is based on a CSBG distribution formula which calculates each local designation's funding based on the number of residents living below the federal poverty level.

Oakland's CSBG grant is administered by the Department of Human Services through the Community Action Partnership's Governing Board (City Council) and the Administering Board. The 15 member Administering Board is federally mandated to maintain a tripartite infrastructure; one-third is democratically elected through the Community Development District Boards for a total of seven members, five are City Council Members or their designees, and three members represent other groups and interests that serve Oakland's low-income community. The Oakland Community Action Partnership is part of a national network of 1100 Community Action Agencies located in 50 states serving an estimated 37 million people nation wide who are faced with living in poverty. Community Action Agencies have been helping people change their lives

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for over forty years. Because of this legacy, the City of Oakland's Community Action Partnership (OCAP) remains committed to its *mission* "to eliminate poverty and its effects on the City of Oakland."

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The Oakland Community Action Partnership program has compiled and reviewed the following community indicators in an effort to assess the impact of poverty within Oakland's community and to gauge the state of well being of Oakland's low-income population.

Oakland's Population

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Oakland's total population is documented as being 399,484. Current data published by the California Department of Finance shows Oakland's population continues to increase; as of January 1, 2005, Oakland's total population is estimated at 412,318. It is worth noting that the youth of Oakland (0-19) constitute the largest representation by any one age group at 27.4% and 73% of the population is classified as being African American, Latino, or Asian. The USA Today Diversity Index has ranked Oakland as one of the most diverse cities in the United States.

Socio-Economical Factors of Oakland

Of the 399,484 individuals documented as living in the City of Oakland, 87,334 are families. Of the 87,334 families, **14,136 (16.2%) are families living below the federal poverty level** (compared to 7.7% countywide and 10.6% statewide) with 22.8% identified as having children below the age of 18. Out of the 14,136 families documented as living in poverty, 7,816 are single female headed households and 1,252 are headed by single males. There are **76,489 individuals (19.4%) documented as living below the federal poverty level; 27,126 are children under the age of 18, and 5,329 are seniors age 65 and over.**

Oakland has a total of 150,971 households, of which, 29,624 (19.6%) receive social security income, averaging about \$10,221 annually; 12,308 (8.2%) receive supplemental security income (SSI), averaging about \$7,263; 11,930 (7.9%) receive public assistance income, averaging about \$4,858; and 20,080 (13.3%) receive retirement income averaging about \$18,238 annually according to the 2000 U.S. Census. For those with earned income, the City's established living wage ordinance requires employers to pay \$9.90 an hour (\$1,716 a month) if health benefits are provided or \$11.39 an hour (\$1,974 a month) if they are not. In comparison, the State's minimum wage is set at \$6.75 an hour (\$1,170 a month).

The median income for a household in the City, as reported in the 2000 Census, is \$40,055; for a family it is \$44,384; for males \$37,433; and for females \$35,088. It should be noted that the 2000 Census per capita income for the City is calculated at \$21,936 annually. The federal poverty threshold for an **individual** in 2005 is \$9,570 annually (\$797.50 monthly, \$4.60 per hr); for a **parent and two children** \$16,090 (\$1,340.83 monthly, \$7.73 per hr); and for a **family of four** with two children \$19,350 annually (\$1,612.50 monthly, \$9.30 per hr). However, the California Budget Project estimates that a single parent family, with two kids, needs on average an annual

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income of \$62,969 (\$30.27 per hr) to maintain a basic budget in Alameda County - which clearly exceeds the average income of a working family that resides in Oakland.

In 2004, the Northern California Council for the Community (NCCC) released a report of the Bay Area's most impoverished neighborhoods. The key finding from the report indicates that poverty is disproportionately concentrated in the Bay Area. The study finds that two thirds of all people in the Bay Area who live at or below poverty reside in West Oakland, San Antonio, Fruitvale, Elmhurst and Central East Oakland. In addition, an alarming 31.9% of the children who live in these concentrated poverty neighborhoods are below the federal poverty line. This compares to a 10.5% poverty rate for all children in the Bay Area.

Education in Oakland

The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) is a large urban district with a population of approximately 49,334 students (2004-2005); 41.3% are African American, 34.3% Latino, 16.2% Asian/Pacific Islander, 6.0% Caucasian, .7% Filipino, .4% Native American and 1.3% other. **A majority of Oakland students are from low or moderate-income families - nearly 63.5% qualify for free or reduced price lunch and 23.6% receive CalWORKs.** The District reports that there are more than 32 languages spoken in Oakland schools and 35% of OUSD students are English learners. While the District's test scores have risen in recent years, for 2004 all but 16 of Oakland's schools have an Academic Performance Index (API) score of 5 or below, with 10 being the highest ranking.

Unemployment in Oakland

An analysis completed in February 2005 for the Oakland Workforce Investment Board, "Economic Outlook for the East Bay Area", indicates that Oakland's unemployment rate is showing improvement. The City of Oakland's annual *average* unemployment rate was 10.6% for 2003 and 9.1% for 2004. The State of California Employment Development Department reports the unemployment rate in Oakland for August 2005 at 7.9%; this compares with an unemployment rate of 5.2% for Alameda County and 5.1% for California. During the reported period, Oakland's total labor force was documented as 200,100; of those, 184,300 were employed while 15,800 were still seeking employment. Overall, Oakland's unemployment rate has declined, with the exception of January 2005 when the rate increased to 8.6% from 7.7%. While the local rate continues to decline, it still exceeds the State's overall unemployment rate.

Housing in Oakland

According to the Association of Bay Area Governments, there are 157,508 total housing units available in Oakland. Of the 157,508 available units, 88,301 (58.6%) are rentals, 62,489 are owner occupied and 6,718 are vacant. In 2005, the National Apartment Research reported the average rent for an apartment in Oakland was \$1,200 a month. It is worth noting that based on California's minimum wage at \$6.75 an hour, earning \$1,170 monthly and \$14,040 annually, a family can afford a monthly rent of no more than \$351 based on the 30% income standard affordability rate. In reality, families are being forced to spend 60% of their income or more on rent in the Bay Area. Compounding Oakland's housing crisis is the fact that the median price for

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a home in Oakland now stands at around \$475,000 according to a study by The California Association of Realtors.

Homelessness in Oakland

The 2003 Alameda Countywide Shelter and Services Survey reported that there is on average 5,838 homeless individuals documented as living within the City of Oakland; approximately 627 are documented as being chronically homeless and about 699 are children. The survey revealed the two top needs most reported by respondents was 1) the need for more affordable places to live (90.3%); and 2) the availability of a list of affordable apartments (82.7%).

Hunger in Oakland

The Alameda County Community Food Bank published a study on hunger in Alameda County entitled “Hunger: The Faces & Facts.” The study represents the results from 211 Alameda County Food Bank member agencies and 439 individuals, selected at random, who turned to one of the Food Bank’s emergency food providers for assistance in the spring of 2001. The study reported that the average monthly income of households receiving food assistance in Alameda County is \$831 compared to the average monthly income of \$4,754 of all U.S. households in 2000. Only 21% of households surveyed are receiving food stamps, while an estimated 80% have incomes that qualify them for the food stamp program. In fact, 73% of households surveyed reported having incomes below the federal poverty level.

The study also found that children are especially vulnerable to hunger. In fact, 43% of all individuals who receive emergency food assistance in Alameda County are children under the age of 18, and 10% of those are 5 years old or younger. Among those households with children, 47% reported experiencing hunger. Thirty-two percent (32%) of the households reported that their children have missed meals due to the lack of food or not having enough money to buy food; 21% reported that their children do not eat, and only 10% of the parents surveyed report that their children participate in the summer lunch program. During the summer of 2001, 60% of the Food Bank’s pantries and 100% of the soup kitchens reported an increase in the number of children receiving emergency food assistance.

Public Safety in Oakland

Recently, the City of Oakland has experienced an overall reduction in crime. As reported by the Oakland Police Department, there was a 25% reduction in homicides in 2004 (82) compared with 2003 (109). In 2004, the City of Oakland’s crime rate experienced a 3.1% decrease compared to the number of total offenses reported in 2003. However, the fact still remains that serious and violent crimes in Oakland continue to disproportionately impact individuals under age 30. Studies further show that serious and violent crimes disproportionately impact African-Americans. Moreover 67% of the parolees released from the California Department of Corrections and 80% of the parolees released from the California Youth Authority are African-American.

OAKLAND'S COMMUNITY AGENCY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND SERVICES

In 2003, Oakland's Community Action Partnership (OCAP) conducted a needs assessment and surveyed individuals who either participated in various programs or lived within one of Oakland's seven community development districts. A total of 300 surveys were collected and an analysis of the data revealed that the leading concerns identified by the low-income community were Housing (78%), Alcohol/Drugs (73%), Job Preparation (68%), and Health Care (60%). As a result of these findings, the Oakland Community Action Partnership aligned its resources in order to fund the following priority areas: **Housing; Employment/Training; and Supportive Services** to directly respond to the needs identified by Oakland's low-income community.

To continue its mission of "eliminating poverty and its effects on the Oakland community", every two years the Oakland Community Action Partnership prepares and submits a plan, as required for continuous funding, to the State Department of Services and Development. For 2006-2007, the City of Oakland Community Action Partnership plans to continue to embrace and support the California Department of Community Services and Development state-wide priority of *Family Self-Sufficiency*. OCAP has adopted a working definition of *Family Self-Sufficiency* as having the means to meet a range of individual needs. Thus, OCAP continues its commitment to support programs and services that focus on guiding families toward meeting those needs.

OCAP PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2005

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) allocations are calculated based on the number of residents living below the federal poverty level in a local jurisdiction. Over the years, the City's funding has decreased and continues to decrease due to the rise in the Bay Area's growing number of "working poor." This growing segment, who are poor in terms of their standard of living but whose annual income far exceeds the federal poverty level, is not factored into the census poverty calculation for the City of Oakland.

For calendar year 2005, the City received a total CSBG allocation of \$680,593 to address and eradicate poverty amongst the 76,489 individuals documented as living below the federal poverty level. This translates into the City receiving less than \$9 per person. Of the \$680,593, OCAP allocated \$379,593 to cover the cost of supporting the EITC program, hosting public forums, conducting fund development to leverage resources, supporting special projects and initiatives, and grant administration. Three hundred and one thousand dollars (\$301,000) was awarded to support other anti-poverty programs within the community. OCAP secured additional funding in the amount of \$50,000 to support the West Oakland Senior Breakfast Program and \$125,000 to support the City of Oakland/Alameda County Food Bank Food Stamp Outreach Program. For calendar year 2005, OCAP supported the following anti-poverty programs:

OCAP Calendar Year 2005 Programs & Services		
PROGRAM	FUNDING	SERVICES
ASSETS	(\$60,000)	<p>Senior Employment Program for low-income adults over 55 for preparation into the competitive job market.</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide employment training to 269 low-income seniors • Place 66 low-income seniors into permanent <i>unsubsidized employment</i>
Community Housing Services (Hunger and Homeless)	<p>(\$48,000- Brown Bag and Food Programs)</p> <p>(\$48,000 – East Oakland Community Project)</p> <p>(\$50,000 State CSD Discretionary -West Oakland Senior Center)</p>	<p>Hunger & Homeless Relief Program distributes food through a network of city-wide organizations and food pantries; hosts the annual Thanksgiving Dinner; and provides emergency housing assistance to low-income homeless individuals and families. The West Oakland Senior Center provides a nutritional breakfast to low-income seniors.</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunger (Brown Bag, Thanksgiving, Nutrition) – Provide food assistance to 20,000 households. • Shelter – Provide shelter to 120 households. • Move 70 households from transitional housing to <i>permanent housing</i> • Provide case management and supportive services to 717 individuals
Family Independence Initiative (FII)	(\$50,000)	<p>Works with 50 CalWORKs families to build the capacities of individuals and families moving toward self-sufficiency. FII uses innovative methods of web-based tracking and self-help groups.</p> <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forty two of the fifty families will open Individual Development Accounts (IDA), showing increased savings of 25% over 6 months • Forty two of the fifty families will increase income by 5% over 6 months • Forty two of the fifty families will increase their net worth by 20% over 6 months
Project Choice	(\$75,000)	<p>Support services for young adult parolees for pre and post re-entry into the community.</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <p>Provide case management and pre-release and post-release services to 60 parolees</p>

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OCAP Calendar Year 2005 Programs & Services		
PROGRAM	FUNDING	SERVICES
People's Community Partnership Federal Credit Union (PCPFCU)	(\$30,000)	Based in West Oakland, PCPFCU provides banking services and Earned Income Tax Credit assistance to low-income individuals that are historically un-banked. Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 140 individuals receive financial literacy training • Provide 100 tax returns amounting to \$100,000 in refunds • Open a minimum of 37 savings and Individual Development Accounts (IDA)
Earned Income Tax Credit (Outreach)	(\$20,000)	Provide free tax preparation and information about other benefits (food stamp, child care, health care, etc...) to low income residents within the City of Oakland at 11 VITA sites. Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach 2,566 tax filers in Oakland
Public Forums (Advocacy)	(\$14,534)	Partner with other organizations such as Head Start and the African American Health Summit to leverage funding. Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information and education to the low-income community about all different types of available benefits and services.
USDA Immigrant Food Stamp Project (Partnership)	(\$125,000 USDA Grant)	CAP serves as a fiscal agency in coordinating food stamp outreach to immigrant communities of Oakland. Co-collaborators include The Alameda County Community Food Bank, Lao Family Community Development, and the United Way of the Bay Area. Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 immigrant households will receive food stamps as a result of this targeted outreach effort

For 2005, it is projected that through the programs and services supported by the Oakland Community Action Partnership, an estimated 55,000 low-income households and individuals will be impacted through one or more of OCAP's anti-poverty fighting efforts.

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2005 OCAP HIGHLIGHTS

The following are highlights of the Community Action Partnership's activities and accomplishments, to date, for calendar year 2005.

➤ ***Earned Income Tax Credit***

The City of Oakland Community Action Partnership, in partnership with the Alameda County Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign, supported 12 free Volunteer Income Tax Preparation Sites (VITA) throughout the City of Oakland with over 225 hours of volunteer time being donated. As a result, 2,635 tax filers received services; approximately \$2.7 million in federal refunds, \$166,399 in state refunds, and \$1.3 million in EITC funds were captured. This year, as a result of the City's Helping Working Families project, the campaign was able to prescreen 119 families for food stamps, 216 families were referred for subsidized health care coverage, 40 bank accounts were opened, and 31 individuals enrolled in financial education programs.

The following community partners were responsible for operating the 12 VITA sites that were located throughout Oakland's low-income communities: Alameda County Social Services Agency, North Oakland; People's Community Partnership Credit Union (PCPFCU); Acorn Center – Oakland; Catholic Charities of the East Bay, Oakland Family Services Center; West Oakland Acorn Computer Center; Unity Council (Supersite); Lincoln Recreation Center (Tax Aid) (Cooperating Site); Lao Family Services; East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC); San Antonio Community Development Corporation; Eastmont Self Sufficiency Center, Alameda County Social Services Agency; and Allen Temple Baptist Church. The following chart highlights the success of the campaigns since its inception in 2002.

Oakland Federal Total	\$2,699,718	\$1,970,528	\$1,361,792
Oakland State Total	\$166,399	\$202,129	NA
Oakland EITC Total	\$1,318,967	\$1,126,164	\$842,502

➤ ***Implementation of OCAP's Request for Partnership (RFP) Application***

In the fall of 2005, the Community Action Administering Board released its 2006-2007 Request for Partnership (RFP) application. Through this effort, OCAP leverages its resources with outcome based programs and services that support Oakland's low-income residents in attaining a level of self-sufficiency in the areas of housing, job training/placement and other supportive services. For program year 2006, OCAP has received a total of 53 partnership applications from other anti-poverty fighting programs requesting a total of \$2.5 million from the approximate \$300,000 available from the OCAP 2006 funding cycle.

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➤ ***OCAP Strategic Planning***

In 2004, OCAP's Administering Board embarked on strategic planning to further develop its vision, mission and purpose. The Board enlisted the support of community partners such as the Oakland Workforce Investment Board, Department of Human Services Community Housing/Services, Alameda County Social Services Agency, United Way of the Bay Area, the Alameda County Housing Authority, and representatives from the community to collectively develop a four year strategic plan for 2006-2009 (with a projected completion date of January 2006). Through its strategic planning process, OCAP is able to assess the low-income community's needs, identify gaps in service, identify priority funding areas, and use this information to seek additional funding to meet the needs of Oakland's diverse low-income community.

➤ ***Awarded \$125,000 from the USDA for Food Stamp Outreach***

The City of Oakland Community Action Partnership, in conjunction with the Alameda County Food Bank and endorsement from the Alameda County Department of Social Services, received a \$125,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to conduct food stamp outreach to an estimated 74,000 individuals who are eligible but are not currently receiving food stamp assistance, with a special emphasis placed on the immigrant population. Through these efforts, over 15 community based organizations located in Oakland have been trained to pre-screen for food stamps and as a result, the County has seen an increase in the number of applicants for food assistance. *Increasing the access to food stamps increases an individual's or family's food security and aids in stretching limited dollars.*

➤ ***Response to Hurricane Katrina Evacuees***

According to the Red Cross of the Bay Area, over 1600 families have relocated to the Bay Area and over 60% of those families are located in Oakland. To support the needs of the evacuees as identified by our community partners, such as the Alameda County Social Services Agency, Eden I and R, Kiwanis Club, and Catholic Charities of the Bay Area. OCAP is providing immediate relief to families in the areas of transportation for jobs and applying for services, and flexible funds to acquire immediate necessities such as clothing for interviews, prescription drugs and household products.

The Oakland Community Action Partnership remains committed to continuing to address the needs of the low-income community by ensuring access to training, education, employment, housing, and enrichment opportunities to improve the lives of Oakland's 76,489 individuals who live in poverty. For over thirty years, the City of Oakland's Community Action Partnership has had a track record in making a difference in the lives of thousands of Oaklanders by "***helping people, change lives.***"

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: OCAP programs and services directly impact the employability of Oakland’s low-income residents by providing increased access to job opportunities and information on relevant topics that will help them access additional services and support.

Environmental: There are no specific environmental opportunities.

Social Equity: The OCAP will continue to focus its efforts to support the City’s goal of developing a sustainable city by encouraging and supporting social equity for all of Oakland’s low-income residents. To this end, OCAP will continue to collaborate and partner with other entities such as the Workforce Investment Board (WIB), the County of Alameda, Alameda County Community Food Bank, and the United Way of the Bay Area to ensure that all efforts to eliminate poverty and its effects on the Oakland community are supported and that a sustainable infrastructure is in place to help low-income families move toward a higher level of self-sufficiency.

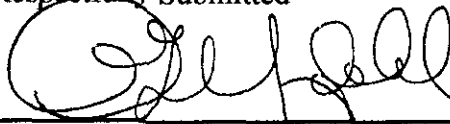
DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

The Oakland Community Action Partnership programs and services are accessible to person with disabilities and senior citizens.

ACTION REQUESTED OF CITY COUNCIL

The Department of Human Services Community Action Partnership requests that the City Council accept this informational report.

Respectfully Submitted



ANDREA YOUNGDAHL
Director, Department of Human Services

Reviewed by:
Sara Bedford, Policy & Planning Manager

Prepared by:
Estelle Clemons, CAP Manager

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE:**


OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

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