



Agency Data Profile

Community Needs Assessment



Aroostook County Action Program Profile



About Aroostook County Action Program

Aroostook County Action Program, Inc. (ACAP), is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 1972. ACAP provides guidance to the community in responding to emerging human needs in the areas of, Early Care and Education, Economic Development, Energy and Housing, & Prevention and Wellness.

Aroostook County Action Program leads or collaborates to provide services that support, empower and improve lives.

Services Offered by Aroostook County Action Program

ACAP provides over 40 programs and services throughout Aroostook County and into parts of Washington County. Our entire team is committed to connecting individuals and families with all of the programs and services they need to reach their goals.

Adult Job Services

Person job counselors offer guidance, connections, and support in areas such as: job search; high school completion; college preparation and transition; occupational training (like CAN and CDL certifications); small business start-up; paid on-the-job training and work experience in high-wage, high-demand careers; transportation to/from and childcare during training or work.

Affordable Care Act Navigator Program

Provides free, in-person assistance from Certified Healthcare Navigators with all aspects of Marketplace coverage including determining eligibility, comparing and explaining options, accessing tax credits, and applying and enrolling coverage.

Aroostook CA\$H Coalition

ACAP is a coalition member in this initiative led by the United Way of Aroostook. Through the use of volunteers, the program prepares tax returns and connecting the clients to community resources.

Back Pack Program

This annual program provides low income students with backpacks and school supplies as they start the new school year.

Breast Pump Loaner Program

Provides the equipment necessary for WIC moms who are breastfeeding to support their return to work or school.

Breastfeeding Support

Provides education and support to WIC enrolled women who are breastfeeding.

Central Heating Improvement Program

Provides income eligible households assistance for heating system improvements such as cleaning, tuning, evaluation, burner retrofit, repair, replacement, or conversion, with priority given to those in a no-heat situation.

Child Care

Provides childcare from infancy to six years of age to children at State of Maine Level 4 Quality Rated and licensed facilities in Caribou, Presque Isle, and Houlton. Centers in Caribou and Presque Isle have achieved accreditation from National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Child Care is a fee-based program, and we accept many forms of voucher payments.

Child Care Food Program

Sponsors licensed childcare providers, meeting USDA food and nutritional guideline, to receive reimbursement for meals served to children in their care.

Coaching

This cross-agency resource offers personal guidance, support, and advocacy for individuals and families as they face obstacles or work on goal attainment.

Community Closet

The Community Closet is a place for the community to donate gently used clothing and for others in need to select clothing for themselves or their family. The Closet is located at our 771 Main St Office in Presque Isle and is accessible 24/7 365 days a year.

Drug Free Aroostook

This collaboration with community partners provides education resources, and evidence-based programming for reducing the use of alcohol, marijuana, and drug use.

Early Intervention Services

Provides opportunities for children ages 3-5 years old with developmental delay and/or disabilities to develop skills and strategies necessary to build solid foundations for school readiness in a small, low ration setting to address goals identified on their Individual Educational Program (IEP). Foundation Classrooms are approved State of Maine Special Education preschool programs and are available in Fort Kent, Presque Isle, Caribou and Houlton.

Energy Crisis Intervention

Provides assistance to income-eligible households for emergency fuel delivery or an electrical disconnect emergency.

Energy, Moisture, & Infiltration Audit Inspection

License Energy Auditors provide several layers of home energy usage evaluations and may provide recommendations for upgrades and predictions of savings. This is a fee-for-service program.

Emergency Rental Assistance

Maine's Emergency Rental Assistance Program provides rental and utility relief payments to help eligible renters. Tenants must meet income guidelines, have financial difficulty, and trouble paying rent or utilities to qualify.

Family Development Accounts

A matched savings account program for income eligible families for post-secondary education, small business development, home purchase/repair, vehicle purchase/repair or emergency savings.

Head Start & Early Head Start

A comprehensive child development program serving families of children prenatally through age 5. In addition to educational screening and assessment and developmental education services, Head Start and Early Head Start providing comprehensive screenings to children that include lead, vision, hearing, oral health, developmental, and behavioral screening. We also provide BMI risk assessments, nutritional counseling, healthy meals, along with physical and mental health support and referrals. Home Based EHS services are available throughout Aroostook County.

Helping Hands Emergency Services

Coaches work with families and individuals before, during, and after emergencies arise to address needs, where other resources are unavailable, and then to assist those households in preventing future crises.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

Provides financial assistance to income and program-eligible households to help address energy costs.

Home Repair Network Program

Offers 0%, no payments, deferred or forgivable loans or grants to income-eligible homeowners for home repair, replacement or repair of septic systems, lead hazard reduction, replacement housing, accessibility, energy related repairs, and other essential improvements, with priority given to homes with the greatest repair needs and consideration given to elderly and household income.

Homeownership Education

Several times per year, we offer an 8-hour class designed to educate aspiring and existing homeowners on essentials of successful home ownership.

Homeownership Support Counseling

Foreclosure prevention counseling services to homeowners who are at risk of falling behind on their mortgage payments or are facing foreclosure.

Hope & Prosperity Center

The Hope and Prosperity Resource center is a warm and safe place to access a variety of services based on an individual's needs. Individuals' families have the ability to access the center where they are able to meet with a coach, utilize one of the tech centers to search for employment, housing and/or apply for other needed services, meeting one-on-one with one of our job counselors or access a meal all under the same roof. The center is a place where someone has the ability to stay warm and dry and away from the elements but also have the ability to access resources and services right on hand.

Improving Outcomes for Youth

Provides youth, ages 16-24, with personal responsibility education, leadership and resiliency skills, financial literacy, and mentorship for young parents, including promoting health family relationships, self-care, and personal growth activities, designed to increase economic independence and promote positive social change.

Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative

Provides alternative to detention for youth involved with the Department of Corrections through a process of Restorative Practice, in which youth work with community mentors, complete community service, and participate in restorative circles that promote accountability and repair.

Kids Integrated Dental Services

Provides clinical assessments, oral prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, sealants, referrals, and oral hygiene instruction to MaineCare-eligible children enrolled in WIC and Head Start programs and at local contracted public schools in Aroostook County.

Lead Paint Inspection Program

Provides inspections of building to detect the presence of lead paint on interior and exterior surfaces. Subsidy for lead testing and the abatement of lead hazards may be available to households in pre-1978 housing with a child under age 6. Landlords may qualify for 5-year deferred/forgivable loans for abatement of lead hazards.

Let's Go! 5-2-1-0

Let's Go! focuses on changing environments and policies wherever children and families live, learn, work, and play. It encourages healthy behaviors to reduce childhood obesity, such as promoting more fruits and vegetable, spending less time in front of screens, moving more, and drinking fewer sugary beverages.

Low-Income Assistance Program

Assists HEAP-qualified customers with electric bill payments.

Oral Health

Provides education to people of all ages throughout Aroostook County in cooperation with other social service and health care providers. Coordinates a consolidated School Oral Health Program and is a resource for oral health programs in all elementary school in Aroostook County. Administers a Dental

Sealant Program for second and third grade students in every Aroostook County elementary school. Maintains an extensive dental health lending library that includes audiovisual materials, books and teaching aids.

Parenting Classes

Early Childhood STEP ((Systematic Training for Effective Parenting) parenting class is a seven week program that uses curriculum that utilized both lecture, question and answer and videos to provide opportunities for participants to see skills in action. The purpose of parenting young children is to provide: looking at long-term goals of parenting, information about how children think, feel and behave, skills to increase enjoyment and effectiveness as a parent, skills that develop a child's self-esteem and confidence, support for parents as a person and effective ways to teach cooperation and discipline.

Preschool Partnerships

Provides a comprehensive preschool development program to 3 and 4-year old children in partnerships with the public school in Dyer Brook and Presque Isle; with high school regional technical centers in Houlton and Presque Isle; and with Child Development Services across the county.

Quarantine Social Supports

Provides assistance to individuals and families who are isolating or quarantining due to COVID-19. Personalized plans are developed that include supports include food and meal delivery, shelter assistance to stay in the home, income and rental support through existing programs, language and cultural brokerage services, supports for stress and anxiety, personal protective equipment, and transportation services for medical needs.

SNAP Education

This is an evidence-based program that helps people lead healthier lives. SNAP-Ed teaches people using or eligible for SNAP about good nutrition and how to make their food dollars stretch further. SNAP-Ed participants also learn to be physically active. SNAP-Ed works by building partnerships with all types of community organizations. Communities have social marketing campaigns, hold nutrition education classes, and improve their policies, systems, and the environment of the community.

SNAP Education and Training

Food Supplement recipients who are currently enrolled in the federally funded SNAP (Food Supplement) Program and subject to federal work requirements are eligible for services through the FSET program. Services include job search, education and training, case management and support services.

Supplemental Food for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Provides nutrition, education, and screening to eligible pregnant and postpartum women, nursing mothers, infants, and children under five years of age.

Tobacco Use Prevention

Focuses on prevention of the initial use of tobacco, the secondhand smoke exposure in the home and workplace, the promotion of tobacco treatment available through the Maine Tobacco Helpline, tobacco

education programming for young adults, and increasing the number of youth entities that adopt and implement policies prohibiting the use of all tobacco products.

Traveling Totes

This program provides children and their families with food and educational materials weekly.

Weatherization

Purchases and installs a variety of energy conservation materials for income-eligible households.

Youth Engagement

A program of the Maine Youth Action Network that works primarily with school and community based youth groups to build young people's leadership on issues of social justice, restorative practices, and public health.

Youth Job Services Program

Job counselors work with eligible youth (ages 18-24) to identify education and career goals and then assist them with achieving those goals, including tutoring, financial education, and matching with a local mentor. In addition, this program offers support services such as childcare assistance; program follow-up; comprehensive guidance and counseling, including substance use counseling when necessary; and entrepreneurial skills training.

Environmental Scan

The following tables provide an overview of the community that Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP) serves in their service area. For more detailed statewide data by county, please see the full 2021 MeCAP Statewide Community Needs Assessment.

Figure 1: Social Vulnerability Index

Measure	United States	Maine	Aroostook County
Population	324,697,795	1,335,492	67,809
Median Age	38.1	44.7	48.0
Below Poverty	13.4%	11.8%	16.3%
Median Household Income	\$62,843	\$57,918	\$41,123
Age 65+	15.6%	20.0%	23.4%
Age 17 or Younger	22.6%	18.9%	18.4%
Unemployment (July 2021)	5.4%	5.0%	6.1%
Households with Disability	12.6%	16.0%	22.3%
Single Parent Household	14.0%	21%	24.6%
Speak English less than “very well”	8.4%	1.5%	3.2%
Housing Units - Mobile Homes %	6.2%	9.5%	9.7%
No Vehicle	8.6%	7.1%	8.6%

SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates; 2021 County Health Rankings

Figure 2: Age and Demographics

Measure	United States	Maine	Aroostook County
Under 5 Years	6.1%	4.8%	4.9%
5 to 9 Years	6.2%	5.2%	10.0%
10 to 19	12.9%	11.3%	10.9%
20 to 34	20.7%	17.5%	20.3%
35 to 54	25.6%	25.3%	22.1%
55 to 64	12.9%	15.7%	16.6%
65+	15.6%	20.0%	23.4%
Race and Ethnicity			
White alone, Not Hispanic or Latino	60.7%	98.3%	96.5%
Hispanic or Latino	18.0%	1.7%	1.2%
Black or African American	12.7%	2.0%	1.5%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.8%	1.7%	2.8%
Asian	5.5%	1.7%	0.7%
Other	5.5%	0.4%	0.2%
Foreign Born Population	13.3%	3.6%	4.4%

SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates

Figure 3: Household Income and Poverty

	United States	Maine	Aroostook County
Median Household (HH) Income	\$62,843	\$57,918	\$41,123
Total Below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	13.4%	11.8%	16.3%
Under 5 years	20.3%	17.0%	16.1%
5 to 17 years	17.9%	14.4%	26.1%
18 to 34 years	16.3%	16.0%	17.5%
35 to 64 years	10.5%	9.9%	20.3%
65 years and over	9.3%	8.7%	14.5%
Below 50% of FPL	5.5%	4.0%	13.0%
Below 125% of FPL	16.3%	14.6%	24.9%
Below 150% of FPL	20.3%	18.6%	29.4%
Below 185% of FPL	26.3%	24.8%	39.9%
Below 200% of FPL	28.9%	27.7%	42.8%

SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates

Figure 4: Social Characteristics Measures

	United States	Maine	Aroostook County
Total Households	120,756,048	559,921	29,516
Homeownership Percentage	64.0%	72.3%	72.0%
Single Parent Household¹	14%	21%	19%
Living Alone	13.3%	15.1%	17.4%
Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren	34.1%	34.1%	52.1%
Veteran Status	7.3%	9.6%	11.0%
Educational Attainment			
Less than 9th grade	5.1%	2.6%	4.8%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	6.9%	4.8%	6.6%
High school graduate/ GED	27.0%	31.5%	37.3%
Some college, no degree	20.4%	19.3%	20.9%
Associate degree	8.5%	10.1%	11.1%
Bachelor's degree	19.8%	20.0%	13.1%
Graduate degree	12.4%	11.8%	6.1%
HS Graduation rate (2020)	88.0%	87.4%	86.2%
No Health Insurance	8.8%	7.9%	8.4%
Receiving SNAP Benefits	11.7%	13.5%	20.6%
Food Insecurity – All Ages	10.9%	12.1%	23.3%
Median Mortgage (2019)	\$1,595	\$1,398	\$986
Median Rent	\$1,062	\$853	\$574
Housing Cost Burdened²	32.88%	29.75%	28.05%

¹ 2021 County Health Rankings.

² The percentage of households that spend 30% or more of their income on housing.

Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	49.5%	38.3%	46.0%
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SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates; Source: Feeding America, State-By-State Resource: The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity, 2019; Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center, County Graduation Rates 2014-2020 Maine.

Figure 5: Health Overview

	United States	Maine	Aroostook County
Poor Mental Health Days	3.8	5.0	5.4
Poor Physical Health Days	3.4	4.2	4.9
Frequent Mental Health Distress	11.7%	12.7%	17%
Ratio of Primary Care Providers	880:1	900:1	910:1
Ratio of Mental Health Providers	170:1	200:1	180:1
Ratio of Dentists	1,210:1	1,480:1	1,680:1
Chronic Disease Prevalence (per 100,000)			
Adults with Heart Disease	26.81%	22.48%	28.47%
High Blood Pressure	57.20%	48.71%	58.82%
Adults with Asthma	4.97%	4.68%	5.16%
Diagnosed Diabetes	26.95%	22.55%	28.64%
Leading Causes of Death (deaths per 100,000)³			
Heart Disease	166.0	147.9	157.2
Cancer	155.5	169.2	164.7
Unintentional Injury	45.7	59.1	48.0
Diabetes	21.2	22.3	24.5
Alzheimer's	29.4	27.6	23.4
Suicide Rates (Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000)	14.5	18	16
Adult Obesity Prevalence (Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000)	42.2	31.7	37.7
Maine Adults Past Month Binge Drinking	25.8%	17.9%	12.8%
Percent Adults Current Smokers	16.1%	22.6	27.4%
COVID-19 Confirmed Cumulative Cases (as of 9/12/21)	41.3M	57,752	1,954
COVID-19 Deaths (as of 9/12/21)	662K	897	54

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2018; National Institute on Minority Healthy & Health Disparities HDPulse; Death Rate Report for Maine by County 2014 – 2018; National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion; Division of Population Health Places Database, 2018; The State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup, Tobacco Prevention & Control Dashboard, 2015 – 2017

³ NIH, HDPulse. Death Rates Table.

Qualitative Research Findings

	Number of Participants
Focus Group Participants	10
Stakeholders Interviewed	13
Community Survey Respondents	885

Key Stakeholder Interview Quotes

A total of 13 stakeholders were interviewed from the ACAP service area. A selection of quotes that provide some insight into the strengths, needs, and challenges and barriers include the following:

- “People take care of each other.”
- “Quality of life is unbeatable.”
- “The Aroostook work ethic is not the same anymore; they don't show up for work; how do we improve this?”
- “If you look for work you can always find work. People can move up here and have a good job. We have jobs available. Good candidates depend on the skills of the people. We're going to have greater needs than we can train for [in certain industries] - IT; forestry. We outsource a lot because we don't have skills.”
- “Workforce development is still a big focus. Getting the soft skills for success. The lack of soft skills is a factor of multiple things – different generations skills, new communications, and the harvest used to be more important.”
- “We do not have any existing infrastructure. There are a tiny number of taxis, no public buses. If they don't have MaineCare they use others.”
- “There is a lack of childcare in the area. ACAP has done a great job of creating program, but they operate at a loss.”
- “There is lots of valley pride; there's lots of barriers. Most are willing to give than receive [help or assistance]. There's a missing piece with the elderly.”
- “We wanted to make mental health a topic to be discussed. There is such a stigma.”
- “My experience says there are not enough [mental] providers. We can't meet the demand in the area.”
- “[Mental health] is a huge hindrance to employment.”
- “Lack of safe and affordable housing – statewide and in the country – it's at crisis level.”

Key Focus Group Quotes

Comments and Ideas	
Top Challenges Mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Childcare
Unique Strength or Challenge Mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I come from a small town; it is slowly dying; people want work and a life; no opportunities. The community is getting older, and the older people are not getting replaced. Employers are desperate.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing varies greatly across the area, but in general Aroostook County has home ownership that is very affordable. • The housing depends on if people can fix their homes; LIHEAP needs you to have a working furnace. • My landlord is great; used to be lots of rentals in the area; can't find them now • There's a waiting list for senior living places
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's difficult to find a therapist; at St. Johns AMHC they don't have a waiting list, but physician prescribers have a waiting list.
Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I haven't visited a lot of day cares; but may don't look safe to put my daughter there • Lots of home day cares that are full. Teaching pre-K; state requires licensure • ACAP mentors them; provides food support; helps them be licensed. • It's too expensive; \$140 a week depending on the child's age
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have to have a car to live up here; or friends or family willing to drive. • There are taxis in town, but most don't live in town.
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used to be easy to find a job. Now there are not a lot of help wanted signs. In lots of places people have worked in the same job for 19 years. Lots of people are struggling making ends meet. Food prices are the same as the cities, but the rents are less.
Basic Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heating and utility assistance
Magic Wand Highlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure families have what they need and childcare. This will help prevent substance abuse.
Noted Policy Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with moms of young kids and help them with issues; ACAP does a great job; teach moms the basics; teach them the milestones or growth; Mom's freak out when they help; Have an advocate for those moms to help them with their child.

Community Survey Results

Figure 6: Top Needs from Community Survey

Aroostook County Action Program, Inc.		
	Need	Percent
1	Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (heroin, cocaine, etc.)	60.2%
2	Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)	60.1%
3	Reducing the amount of opioid misuse	59.3%
4	Making dental care more affordable	58.9%
5	Increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers	57.8%
6	Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities	57.5%
7	Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers	57.0%
8	Expanding crisis services for mental health and substance use disorders	56.9%
9	Developing more livable-wage jobs	56.2%
10	Increasing the number of substance use disorder providers and services	55.9%
11	Providing job growth opportunities	55.1%
12	Reducing stigma associated with mental health and substance misuse	55.0%
13	Providing more recreational opportunities for youth	54.5%
14	Increasing the number of dentists who serve MaineCare patients	54.2%
15	Providing more after-school programs for school-aged children	54.2%
16	Increasing the number of detox facilities	53.7%
17	Increasing the number of affordable apartments	53.3%
18	Reducing the amount of childhood obesity	52.3%
19	Increasing programs for major housing repairs (roofs, windows, etc.)	52.3%
20	Improving access to high-speed internet and technology	51.5%
21	Making public transportation available in rural communities	51.2%
22	Creating technical school, trade school, or other job training options	50.8%
23	Providing soft skills education (customer service, showing up on time, etc.)	49.7%
24	Increasing the number of childcare providers who offer age-appropriate education	49.2%
25	Developing rental and mortgage assistance programs	48.1%
26	Creating higher quality rental apartments and houses	47.7%
27	Reducing the amount of alcohol misuse	47.0%
28	Creating more emergency shelter beds for people who are homeless	46.9%
29	Creating more affordable public transportation options	46.7%
30	Providing help with weatherization	46.6%
31	Providing more senior housing options	46.2%
32	Reducing the amount of adult obesity	45.7%
33	Creating more shelter beds for certain populations (children, women, families, LGBTQ, veterans, etc.)	45.5%
34	Reducing the amount of smoking and vaping	45.2%
35	Providing more transportation options to childcare services	44.9%
36	Increasing the availability of prepared foods for seniors (Meals on Wheels, etc.)	44.8%
37	Providing help with utility assistance (heating fuel, electricity, etc.)	44.4%
38	Reducing building costs of new affordable housing units	43.9%
39	Increasing the number of landlords who accept housing vouchers	43.1%
40	Reducing stigma associated with the housing voucher program	42.7%
41	Expanding open hours at food banks	42.3%
42	Increasing the number of affordable houses for sale	42.1%
43	Expanding food options for people with dietary restrictions or allergies at food banks	41.4%

44	Adding better routes and time schedules to current public transportation system	40.8%
45	Increasing programs for minor housing repairs (paint, upgrades, etc.)	39.7%
46	Providing help with the cost of vehicle repairs	37.6%
47	Providing help with the cost of vehicle insurance and regular maintenance	35.1%
48	Helping more people who are homeless to find their missing identification documents (driver's license, social security number, etc.)	34.9%
49	Reducing MaineCare transportation limitations (i.e., limited to one parent and child)	33.3%

Figure 7: Top 5 Needs by Household Income - ACAP

Need							
	Under \$15,000	Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	Between \$30,000 and \$49,999	Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	Between \$100,000 and \$150,000	Over \$150,000
1	Making dental care more affordable	Making dental care more affordable	Making dental care more affordable	Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (heroin, cocaine, etc.)	Reducing the amount of opioid misuse	Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)	Increasing the number of affordable apartments
2	Reducing stigma associated with mental health and substance misuse	Increasing the number of dentists who serve MaineCare patients	Expanding crisis services for mental health and substance use disorders	Increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers	Increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers	Reducing the amount of opioid misuse	Reducing stigma associated with mental health and substance misuse
3	Increasing the number of detox facilities	Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (heroin, cocaine, etc.)	Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities	Reducing the amount of opioid misuse	Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)	Increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers	Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers
4	Increasing the number of dentists who serve MaineCare patients	Developing more livable-wage jobs	Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (heroin, cocaine, etc.)	Providing more recreational opportunities for youth	Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers	Reducing the amount of other drug misuse (heroin, cocaine, etc.)	Increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers
5	Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities	Reducing the amount of opioid misuse	Increasing the number of substance use disorder providers and services	Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)	Reducing the amount of alcohol misuse	Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers	Improving access to high-speed internet and technology

Needs Prioritization

The following table contains the final prioritized list of needs for the ACAP service area.

Figure 8: ACAP Prioritized Needs

Focus Area	Need	Agency Rank	Level	Locus Of Control	Timeline	Notes
Childcare	Increasing the number of affordable childcare providers	1	Agency/Community	2/3	2/3	Agency partners and policy work
	Providing more flexible and affordable childcare options for working parent(s)	2	Agency/Community	2/3	3	
	Increasing the number of high quality licensed childcare providers	4	Agency/Community	3	3	
	Providing more after-school programs for school-aged children	7	Community	2/3	3	
	Increasing the number of childcare providers who offer age-appropriate education	8	Agency/Community	3	3	
Focus Area	Need	Agency Rank	Level	Locus Of Control	Timeline	
Housing	Increasing the number of affordable housing units	3	Agency/Community	2/3	3	

	Creating more emergency shelter beds for people experiencing homelessness	10	Community	3	3	
	Increasing programs for housing repairs	12	Agency/Community	2/3	1/2	Housing repairs done in house and with support can impact all three
	Providing help with home weatherization	13	Agency/Community	1/2/3	1/2	
	Providing more senior housing options	25	Agency/Community	2/3	1/2	
	Developing rental and mortgage assistance programs	29	Agency/Community	2/3	1	Currently work and develop in this area
	Providing additional utility assistance (heating fuel, electricity, etc.)	30	Agency/Community	1/2	1	

Focus Area	Need	Agency Rank	Level	Locus Of Control	Timeline
HealthCare	Reducing the amount of opioid and other drug (heroin, meth, cocaine, etc.) misuse	5	Agency/Community	1/2/3	3
	Increasing the number of dentists who serve MaineCare patients	6	Community	3	3
	Expanding crisis services for mental health and substance use disorders	9	Community	3	3
	Increasing the number of detox facilities	11	Community	3	3
	Reducing stigma associated with mental health and substance misuse	14	Agency/Community	1/2	3
	Reducing the amount of childhood obesity	15	Agency/Community	1/2/3	3
	Increasing the number of substance use disorder providers and services	20	Community	3	3

	Making dental care more affordable	22	Agency/Community	2/3	3
	Increasing the number of mental health providers in rural communities	28	Community	2/3	3
Focus Area	Need	Agency Rank	Level	Locus Of Control	Timeline
Employment	Providing job growth opportunities	16	Agency/Community	1/2/3	1
	Providing soft skills education (e.g., interview skills, customer service, punctuality, etc.) to job seekers and others	17	Family/Agency	1	1
	Creating technical school, trade school, or other job training options	31	Community	1/2/3	1
	Developing more livable-wage jobs	33	Agency/Community	2/3	3

Focus Area	Need	Agency Rank	Level	Locus Of Control	Timeline
Transportation	Making public transportation available in rural communities	18	Community	3	3
	Providing help with the cost of vehicle repairs	26	Family/Agency	1/2	1
	Increasing public transportation	27	Community	3	3
	Reducing MaineCare transportation limitations (i.e., limited to one parent and child)	35	Community	3	3
Focus Area	Need	Agency Rank	Level	Locus Of Control	Timeline
Operational	Increasing the collaboration between community providers	21	Agency/Community	1/2/3	1
	Reducing the stigma around poverty and asking for help	23	Agency/Community	1	2/3
	Increasing community awareness of Community Action Agencies and the services they provide	32	Agency	1	1
	Increasing the collaboration/partnerships/funding	34	Agency/Community	2	1

	opportunities between multiple (or all) CAP agencies in the state				
Focus Area	Need	Agency Rank	Level	Locus Of Control	Timeline
Other	Improving access to high-speed internet and technology	19	Community	1/2/3	1/3
	Helping people find or replace missing identification documents (e.g., driver's license, social security number, etc.) as part of their application for services	24	Family/Agency	1	1

Stakeholder Interview Participants

Name	Organization
Sarah Ennis	United Way of Aroostook County
Dave Cote	Van Buren Resiliency Project
Judy Anderson	Aroostook Agency on Aging
Nan Heald	Pine Tree Legal
Rachel Rice	University of Maine
Denise Plourde	Norstate Federal Credit Union
Tammie Fletcher & Peter Lento	Huber
Kelly Landeen	WAGM TV
Robin Levesque	ACC / Maine Parent Federation /ACAP Board Member
Deb Jacques	Aroostook Mental Health Center
Laurie Kelly	Presque Isle Police Department
Kim Dorsey	Jobs for Maine Grads – Forth Fairfield
Dave Dionne	Aroostook Regional Transportation