

Commission on Economic Opportunity, May 2016 and December 2018 – In compliance with the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) guidelines, the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) required a needs assessment to facilitate planning. The Institute assisted with this assessment by deploying surveys and conducting interviews to identify root causes of issues, emerging trends, gaps in services, and challenges in delivery. Data synthesis informed recommendations for improved outcomes and a market approach to regional socio-economic challenges.

Luzerne County Head Start, September 2016 and 2018 - Needs assessments conducted by the Institute equipped Luzerne County Head Start with insight from multiple stakeholder groups, as well as strategic analysis and recommendations for the future. The assessment addressed accessibility of transportation, degree of family involvement, hiring and retention of program staff, marketing and communication, and the possibility of more community partnerships. Overall, Head Start is favorably received and there are continuing needs for funding increases and service expansion.

Lehigh Valley Health Network, August 2018 – The Institute assisted the healthcare system with the completion of a regional needs assessment, as required every three years by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Data were collected from community members, subject matter experts, and other stakeholders to create a profile with prioritized health needs.

United Way Wyoming Valley Berwick Needs Assessment, July 2018 – In this report, the Berwick area is described in terms of economic, social, and demographic trends. Several of the region’s most pressing needs are detailed. The Institute conducted interviews and surveys of community members and synthesized them with secondary data to identify opportunities for the United Way Wyoming Valley to develop initiatives that positively influence Berwick residents.



Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging, May 2018 – Lackawanna County operates dozens of programs targeted primarily to older adults. The Institute completed a needs assessment on behalf of the county’s Area Agency on Aging, highlighting unmet needs for services. Members of the aging population expressed financial concerns and the desire to live comfortably in their own homes. There is significant support to help seniors access resources like Medicaid and Medicare, but room for more opportunities to educate and employ these individuals.

Maternal & Family Health Services, March 2018 – This project identified the unmet needs of the population served by The Maternal and Family Health Services, Inc. Reproductive Health and Family Planning Program. The report identified high-risk counties in the 15-county service area and provided information regarding capacity-building opportunities.

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine – Behavioral Health Study, December 2017 – All types of behavioral health professionals are in short supply, and they serve a growing population. The Institute analyzed occupations (including recruitment, retention, and wage issues) and growth projections (i.e. increasing demand for services and effective adaptation by service delivery organizations).

Pocono Alliance, March 2017 – Monroe County enlisted the Institute to evaluate its behavioral health continuum of care. The resulting improvement plan offered a SWOT analysis that highlighted assets and gaps, along with recommendations for meeting a range of behavioral needs. The United Way of Monroe County subsequently implemented multiple collaborative projects.

AllOne Foundation, November 2016 – The Institute measured indicators present in 13 counties and developed detailed county profiles that describe socio-economic, health and social service data trended over time. Areas of focus included teen pregnancy, suicide rates, drug abuse, limited access to healthy food, and more. With three-year to five-year assessments of these indicators, it's possible to evaluate the influence of AllOne grantees and make improvements to ensure positive change as needed.

United Way Monroe County, 2016 – In a three-phase process, the Institute reviewed all reports, studies, and data available through the United Way Monroe County (UWMC), its member agencies, and other community organizations (including government) regarding the physical and mental health status of county residents, economic concerns, and social service challenges. Findings were synthesized to identify trends and common themes, unique challenges and opportunities, environmental dynamics, and relationships among the variables.

United Way of Susquehanna, March 2014 – The purpose of this study was to identify possible causes of poverty, low education performance and attainment, and health issues in order to improve student performance in school, reduce poverty, and improve community health.

United Way of Wyoming Valley, August 2013 – The Institute engaged in research and planning activities to identify the most significant challenges in the United Way of Wyoming Valley service region – and their root causes. As a result of the data collection and analysis, strategic priorities and solutions to the region's pressing issues have been adopted.