



COMMUNITY ACTION OF LARAMIE COUNTY

Community Action of Laramie County (CALC) is dedicated to ~~eliminating~~ (reducing) poverty by empowering people through education, advocacy, and crises intervention, and by providing opportunities toward self-sufficiency.

WHAT IS
PROJECT
HOPE?



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- Pilot Program through Community Action of Laramie County that began October 1, 2017 designed to help ten plus individuals/families become self-sufficient in one year.

Why Project Hope?

- Federal grant – Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) – Not really producing quantifiable outcomes
- Good stewards of the money
- Were we really fulfilling our mission successfully



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PRIOR TO
OCTOBER 1,
2017



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- Community Action Self-Sufficiency Program mainly focused on emergency assistance.
 - Rent/deposit
 - Utilities – Deposit/Shut Offs
 - Bus Tokens
- Was this eliminating poverty?
- Was this empowering?
- Was this educating?
- Was this advocacy?
- Was this crises intervention?
- And more importantly was this truly helping people to become self-sufficient?



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The Task

- Community Action of Laramie County was tasked with designing a program that would and could produce results or quantifying outcomes.
- Heads came together and the brainstorming began:
 - How do you eliminate poverty?
 - What is the cause of poverty?
 - What population do we serve and why do we serve them?
 - How do we address the issues?
 - Who benefits?
 - ??????????????????????????????????????

GENESIS – PROJECT HOPE WAS CREATED

- HOW DO YOU ELIMINATE POVERTY?
- First poverty needs to be defined:
- The Dictionary defines poverty as:
 - The state of being extremely poor.
 - The state of being inferior in quality or insufficient in amount.
- Community Action defines poverty as
 - Persons living at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Guideline.
 - Persons must be homeless, near homeless or facing an eviction within the next thirty days



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Elimination

- To eliminate you have to get to the root of the problem.
 - Lack of income or job
 - Lack of education
 - Lack of efficient medical care
 - Lack of child care
 - Lack of affordable housing
 - Lack of transportation
 - Lack of motivation
 - Mental health issues
 - Etc. Etc. Etc.



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EMPOWERMENT

- Empowerment begins with education.
 - Case management has to be at the very core.
 - Cannot be a hand out but a hand up.
 - Individuals have to have buy in.
 - Individuals have to have goals and be motivated.
 - Advocacy is key.



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CRISES INTERVENTION

- Persons entering the doors of Community Action are in crises so what constitutes intervention.
 - Must assess the immediate needs
 - Homelessness
 - Utility shut off
 - Age of the persons
 - Resources
 - Background



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SELF-SUFFICIENCY

- Self-Sufficiency brings everything together in the effort of restoring a client's confidence in themselves and be able to believe that they are capable of getting to a state of not requiring any aid, support, or interaction for survival.
 - Self-Sustainability



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THE BIRTH OF PROJECT HOPE



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- Intensive Case Management
 - Application process
 - 10 clients versus 800
 - 4 hour assessment with two to three managers attending the intake
 - Intake is 38 pages
 - Eligibility Requirements
 - Meet 125% FPL
 - Homeless or near homeless
 - Active participation in the program
 - Pass a background check
- Goal Oriented
- One year commitment
- Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly meetings
- Monthly and quarterly assessments
- Referrals and resources



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FOUNDATIONS/GOALS

- Maintaining a stable home
- Maintaining a stable job
- Enhancement of Life Skills
 - Budgeting
 - Interviewing skills
 - Nutrition
 - Parenting
 - Capacity building – building social skills and community relations
 - Saving
- Addressing individual needs
- Developing goals to achieve
- Improving quality of life



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THE KEY

- From October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018 14 people were accepted into the Program.
 - June 2018 – 4 persons had met all goals and were ready to graduation
 - September 2018 – 7 persons are preparing for graduation ceremonies to be held October 26, 2018 at the Botanical Gardens
 - Of these 11 people
 - 2 are in the process or have already started the process of purchasing a home the rest are residing in affordable and safe residences
 - 2 are enrolled in classes and 4 are preparing to start classes in the Spring
 - 6 have or are getting ready to purchase vehicles
 - 5 are currently employed
 - All are working at paying off debts and budgeting
 - All are smiling and appreciative and feel that Project Hope made a difference in their goal to become self-sufficient



DOES
IT
WORK
?



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JUNE 26, 2018

We Think So!!!!



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4 GRADUATES IN SIX
MONTHS



GOING FORWARD



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- October 1, 2018
 - Gearing up for the next group
 - We have narrowed down the questions in the intake
 - We have a better understanding of the needs
 - We are going to increase the numbers up to 60 clients
 - Started the intakes October 1st and are waiting on background checks but have six families ready to go

Q & A



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CONTACT
INFORMATION



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