

2026/2027 Community Needs Assessment and Community Action Plan

Project GO, Inc.



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Introduction

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) has developed the 2026/2027 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and Community Action Plan (CAP) template for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Service Providers network. CSD requests agencies submit a completed CAP, including a CNA, to CSD on or before **June 30, 2025**. Changes from the previous template are detailed below in the “What’s New for 2026/2027?” section. Provide all narrative responses in 12-point Arial font with 1.15 spacing. A completed CAP template should not exceed 65 pages, excluding the appendices.

Purpose

Public Law 105-285 (the CSBG Act) and the California Government Code require that CSD secure a CAP, including a CNA from each agency. Section 676(b)(11) of the CSBG Act directs that receipt of a CAP is a condition to receive funding. Section 12747(a) of the California Government Code requires the CAP to assess poverty-related needs, available resources, feasible goals, and strategies that yield program priorities consistent with standards of effectiveness established for the program. Although CSD may prescribe statewide priorities or strategies that shall be considered and addressed at the local level, each agency is authorized to set its own program priorities in conformance to its determination of local needs. The CAP supported by the CNA is a two-year plan that shows how agencies will deliver CSBG services. CSBG funds are by their nature designed to be flexible. They shall be used to support activities that increase the capacity of low-income families and individuals to become self-sufficient.

Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and Certification

The Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances are found in Section 676(b) of the CSBG Act. These assurances are an integral part of the information included in the CSBG State Plan. A list of the assurances that are applicable to CSBG agencies has been provided in the Federal Programmatic Assurances section of this template. CSBG agencies should review these assurances and confirm that they are in compliance. Signature of the board chair and executive director on the Cover Page certify compliance with the Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances.

State Assurances and Certification

As required by the CSBG Act, states are required to submit a State Plan as a condition to receive funding. Information provided in agencies’ CAPs will be included in the CSBG State Plan. Alongside Organizational Standards, the state will be reporting on [State Accountability Measures](#) in order to ensure accountability and program performance improvement. A list of the applicable State Assurances is provided in this template. CSBG agencies should review these assurances and confirm that they are in compliance. Signature of the board chair and executive director on the Cover Page certify compliance with the State Assurances.

Compliance with CSBG Organizational Standards

As described in the Office of Community Services (OCS) [Information Memorandum \(IM\) #138](#) dated January 26, 2015, CSBG agencies will comply with the Organizational Standards. A list of Organizational Standards that are met by an accepted CAP, including a CNA, are found in the Organizational Standards section of this template. Agencies are encouraged to utilize this list as a resource when reporting on the Organizational Standards annually.

What's New for 2026/2027?

Due Date. The due date for your agency's 2026/2027 CAP is June 30, 2025. However, earlier submission of the CSBG Network's CAPs will allow CSD more time to review and incorporate agency information in the CSBG State Plan and Application. CSD, therefore, requests that agencies submit their CAPs on or before May 31, 2025.

ROMA Certification Requirement. CSD requires that agencies have the capacity to provide their own ROMA, or comparable system, certification for your agency's 2026/2027 CAP. Certification can be provided by agency staff who have the required training or in partnership with a consultant or another agency.

Federal CSBG Programmatic and State Assurances Certification. In previous templates, the federal and state assurances were certified by signature on the Cover Page and by checking the box(es) in both federal and state assurances sections. In the 2026/2027 template, CSD has clarified the language above the signature block on the Cover Page and done away with the check boxes. Board chairs and executive directors will certify compliance with the assurances by signature only. However, the Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and the State Assurances language remain part of the 2026/2027 template.

Other Modifications. The title page of the template has been modified to include your agency's name and logo. Please use this space to brand your agency's CAP accordingly. CSD has also added references to the phases of the ROMA Cycle i.e. assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation throughout the 2026/2027 template. Additionally, there are a few new questions, minor changes to old questions, and a reordering of some questions.

Checklist

- ☒ **Cover Page**
- ☐ **Public Hearing Report**

Part I: Community Needs Assessment Summary

- ☒ **Narrative**
- ☒ **Results**

Part II: Community Action Plan

- ☒ **Vision and Mission Statements**
- ☒ **Causes and Conditions of Poverty**
- ☒ **Tripartite Board of Directors**
- ☒ **Service Delivery System**
- ☒ **Linkages and Funding Coordination**
- ☒ **Monitoring**
- ☒ **ROMA Application**
- ☒ **Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances**
- ☒ **State Assurances**
- ☒ **Organizational Standards**

Part III: Appendices

- ☐ **Notice of Public Hearing**
- ☐ **Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response**
- ☐ **Community Needs Assessment**

Cover Page

Agency Name:	Project GO, Inc.
Name of CAP Contact:	Matt Timbers
Title:	CSBG Program Director
Phone:	916-782-3443
Email:	Matt@projectgoinc.org

Date Most Recent CNA was Completed: (Organizational Standard 3.1)	
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Board and Agency Certification

The undersigned hereby certifies that this agency will comply with the [Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances \(CSBG Act Section 676\(b\)\)](#) and [California State Assurances \(Government Code Sections 12747\(a\), 12760, and 12768\)](#) for services and programs provided under the 2026/2027 Community Needs Assessment and Community Action Plan. The undersigned governing body accepts the completed Community Needs Assessment. (Organizational Standard 3.5)

Name: Lynda Timbers

Name: Jennifer Knisley

Title:	Executive Director	Title:	Board Chair
Date:		Date:	

ROMA Certification

The undersigned hereby certifies that this agency's Community Action Plan and strategic plan document the continuous use of the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) system or comparable system (assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation). (CSBG Act 676(b)(12), Organizational Standard 4.3)

Name: Amanda Shattuck

ROMA Title:	ROMA Implementor
Date:	

CSD Use Only

Dates CAP		Accepted By
Received	Accepted	

Public Hearing(s)

California Government Code Section 12747(b)-(d)

State Statute Requirements

As required by California Government Code Section 12747(b)-(d), agencies are required to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the draft CAP. Testimony presented by low-income individuals and families during the public hearing shall be identified in the final CAP.

Guidelines

Notice of Public Hearing

1. Notice of the public hearing should be published at least 10 calendar days prior to the public hearing.
2. The notice may be published on the agency's website, social media channels, and/or in newspaper(s) of local distribution.
3. The notice should include information about the draft CAP; where members of the community may review, or how they may receive a copy of, the draft CAP; the dates of the comment period; where written comments may be sent; date, time, and location of the public hearing; and the agency contact information.
4. The comment period should be open for at least 10 calendar days prior to the public hearing. Agencies may opt to extend the comment period for a selected number of days after the hearing.
5. The draft CAP should be made available for public review and inspection approximately 30 days prior to the public hearing. The draft CAP may be posted on the agency's website, social media channels, and distributed electronically or in paper format.
6. Attach a copy of the Notice(s) of Public Hearing in Part III: Appendices as Appendix A.

Public Hearing

1. Agencies must conduct at least one public hearing on the draft CAP.
2. Public hearing(s) must be held in the designated CSBG service area(s).
3. Low-income testimony presented at the hearing or received during the comment period should be memorialized verbatim in the Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response document and appended to the final CAP as Appendix B in Part III: Appendices.
4. The Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response document should include the name of low-income individual, his/her testimony, an indication of whether or not the need was addressed in the draft CAP, and the agency's response to the testimony if the concern was not addressed in the draft CAP.

Additional Guidance

For the purposes of fulfilling the public hearing requirement on the draft CAP, agencies may conduct the public hearing in-person, remotely, or using a hybrid model based on community need at the time of the hearing.

Public Hearing Report

Date(s) the Notice(s) of Public Hearing(s) was/were published	
Date Public Comment Period opened	April 7, 2025
Date Public Comment Period closed	May 16, 2025
Date(s) of Public Hearing(s)	May 7, 2025
Location(s) of Public Hearing(s)	109 Sterling Ct. Roseville, CA 95661
Where was the Notice of Public Hearing published? (agency website, newspaper, social media channels)	Agency website, Gold Country Media
Number of attendees at the Public Hearing(s)	

Part I: Community Needs Assessment Summary

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Section 12747(a)

Helpful Resources

A community needs assessment provides a comprehensive “picture” of the needs in your service area(s). Resources are available to guide agencies through this process.

- CSD-lead training – “Community Needs Assessment: Common Pitfalls and Best Practices” on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 1:00 pm. [Registration is required](#). The training will be recorded and posted on the Local Agencies Portal after the event.
- Examples of CNAs, timelines, and other resources are on the [Local Agencies Portal](#).
- [Community Action Guide to Comprehensive Community Needs Assessments](#) published by the National Association for State Community Service Programs (NASCSPP).
- [Community Needs Assessment Tool](#) designed by the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP).
- National and state quantitative data sets. See links below.

Sample Data Sets		
U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Data	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Economic Data	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Housing Data & Report
HUD Exchange PIT and HIC Data Since 2007	National Low-Income Housing Coalition Housing Needs by State	National Center for Education Statistics IPEDS
California Department of Education School Data via DataQuest	California Employment Development Department UI Data by County	California Department of Public Health Various Data Sets
California Department of Finance Demographics	California Attorney General Open Justice	California Health and Human Services Data Portal
CSD Census Tableau Data by County		Population Reference Bureau KidsData
Data USA National Public Data	National Equity Atlas Racial and Economic Data	Census Reporter Census Data

Sample Data Sets		
Urban Institute SNAP Benefit Gap	Race Counts California Racial Disparity Data	Rent Data Fair Market Rent by ZIP
UC Davis Center for Poverty & Inequality Poverty Statistics	University of Washington Center for Women's Welfare California Self-Sufficiency Standard	University of Wisconsin Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator	Nonprofit Leadership Center Volunteer Time Calculator	Economic Policy Institute Family Budget Calculator

Narrative

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(9)

Organizational Standards 2.2, 3.3

ROMA – Assessment

Based on your agency's most recent CNA, please respond to the questions below.

1. Describe the geographic location(s) that your agency is funded to serve with CSBG. If applicable, include a description of the various pockets, high-need areas, or neighborhoods of poverty that are being served by your agency.

Placer County is located in Norther California, spanning an area of 1,407 square miles of valley, foothills, and the beautiful Sierra Nevada mountains, and 82 square miles of water. The government center of Placer is the city of Auburn, which is located 30 miles northeast of the state capitol, Sacramento. The current population of Placer is 420,717, up from 404,739 in 2020. Between 2010 and 2020, the county saw a 16.16% increase in overall population, compared to an overall increase in the state of just 6.13%.

The regions of Placer County can be broken down into three parts, South (or West) Placer, the Foothills, and the Tahoe/Truckee area which borders the state of Nevada. South Placer contains four of the six incorporated cities in the county, Roseville, Rocklin, Lincoln, and Loomis. These cities have seen major growth in population as more and more people have entered the county, especially individuals and families moving out of the Bay Area. Data from the 2010 and 2020 census shows that Rocklin saw the largest increase of 25.7% during the decade, followed by the neighboring city of Roseville with 24.4% growth. Lincoln, which is connected to Roseville and Rocklin by Highway 65, grew by 16.2% during the same time period.

The smaller communities in the Foothills and further east in the Sierras are a mix of low, median, and high income communities. Low-income residents in these more remote areas face additional challenges being further from social services, grocery stores, hospitals, entertainment options, and other necessities. Seniors in our services area also face additional hurdles when accessing food and health related services.

The geography of Placer County spans from grasslands and foothills, to the snow-capped Sierra Nevada mountain range on the eastern side, rivers, lakes including Lake Tahoe, state and regional parks, and a broad range recreational activities. Outdoor recreation plays a large role in the strong tourism economy in the Tahoe region.

2. Indicate from which sources your agency collected and analyzed quantitative data for its most recent CNA. (Check all that apply.) (Organizational Standard 3.3)

Federal Government/National Data Sets

- ☒ Census Bureau
- ☒ Bureau of Labor Statistics
- ☒ Department of Housing & Urban Development
- ☒ Department of Health & Human Services
- ☐ National Low-Income Housing Coalition
- ☐ National Equity Atlas
- ☐ National Center for Education Statistics
- ☐ Academic data resources
- ☒ Other online data resources
- ☐ Other

Local Data Sets

- ☐ Local crime statistics
- ☒ High school graduation rate
- ☐ School district school readiness
- ☒ Local employers
- ☒ Local labor market
- ☐ Childcare providers
- ☒ Public benefits usage
- ☒ County Public Health Department
- ☒ Other

California State Data Sets

- ☒ Employment Development Department
- ☒ Department of Education
- ☐ Department of Public Health
- ☐ Attorney General
- ☒ Department of Finance
- ☐ Other

Surveys

- ☒ Clients
- ☒ Partners and other service providers
- ☒ General public
- ☐ Staff
- ☐ Board members
- ☐ Private sector
- ☒ Public sector
- ☐ Educational Institutions
- ☐ Other

Agency Data Sets

- ☒ Client demographics
- ☒ Service data
- ☒ CSBG Annual Report
- ☐ Client satisfaction data
- ☐ Other

3. Indicate the approaches your agency took to gather qualitative data for its most recent CNA.
(Check all that apply.) (Organizational Standard 3.3)

Surveys

- ☒ Clients
- ☐ Partners and other service providers
- ☒ General public
- ☐ Staff
- ☐ Board members
- ☐ Private sector
- ☒ Public sector
- ☐ Educational institutions

Interviews

- ☐ Local leaders
- ☐ Elected officials
- ☐ Partner organizations' leadership
- ☐ Board members
- ☐ New and potential partners
- ☐ Clients

Focus Groups

- ☐ Local leaders
- ☐ Elected officials
- ☐ Partner organizations' leadership
- ☐ Board members
- ☐ New and potential partners
- ☐ Clients
- ☐ Staff

☒ **Community Forums**☐ **Asset Mapping**☐ **Other**

4. Confirm that your agency collected and analyzed information from each of the five community sectors below as part of the assessment of needs and resources in your service area(s). Your agency must demonstrate that all sectors were included in the needs assessment by checking each box below; a response for each sector is required. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(9), Organizational Standard 2.2)

Community Sectors

- ☒ Community-based organizations
- ☒ Faith-based organizations
- ☒ Private sector (local utility companies, charitable organizations, local food banks)
- ☒ Public sector (social services departments, state agencies)
- ☒ Educational institutions (local school districts, colleges)

Results

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Section 12747(a)

Organizational Standards 4.2

State Plan Summary and Section 14.1a

ROMA – Planning

Based on your agency's most recent CNA, please complete Table 1: Needs Table and Table 2: Priority Ranking Table.

Table 1: Needs Table					
Needs Identified	Level (C/F)	Agency Mission (Y/N)	Currently Addressing (Y/N)	If not currently addressing, why?	Agency Priority (Y/N)
Families need safe, affordable housing.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Seniors report high rates of being housing cost burdened.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Homeless individuals need support transitioning into housing.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	N
The county needs enough housing to support population growth at all income levels.	C	Y	N	Need met by local partner.	N
Households can not afford high utility bills.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Individuals do not have living wage jobs.	F	Y	N	Need met by local partner.	N
Families cannot afford to pay for necessary upkeep on their homes.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Veterans need medical and mental healthcare.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	N
Homebound seniors are isolated from the communities in which they live.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Families do not have enough food.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Families face trauma and mental health challenges.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Addicts need a second chance at wellness and independence from substance abuse.	F	Y	N	Need met by local partner.	N
Individuals need a safe environment in which to live free from abuse.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Children are not prepared for kindergarten.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	N
Parents need skills to support healthy growth and education for their children.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	N
Communities face greater threats of wildfire.	C	Y	N	Need met by local partner.	N
Families facing eviction need legal services.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Individuals in rural areas report difficulty obtaining affordable, healthy food.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y

Needs Identified: Enter each need identified in your agency's most recent CNA. Ideally, agencies should use ROMA needs statement language in Table 1. ROMA needs statements are complete sentences that identify the need. For example, "Individuals lack living wage jobs" or "Families lack access to affordable housing" are needs statements. Whereas "Employment" or "Housing" are not. Add row(s) if additional space is needed.

Level (C/F): Identify whether the need is a community level (C) or a family level (F) need. If the need is a community level need, the need impacts the geographical region directly. If the need is a family level need, it will impact individuals/families directly.

Agency Mission (Y/N): Indicate if the identified need aligns with your agency's mission.

Currently Addressing (Y/N): Indicate if your agency is addressing the identified need.

If not currently addressing, why?: If your agency is not addressing the identified need, please select a response from the dropdown menu.

Agency Priority: Indicate if the identified need is an agency priority.

Table 2: Priority Ranking Table

	Agency Priorities	Description of programs, services, activities	Indicator(s) or Service(s) Category
1.	Families need safe, affordable housing.	PGI affordable senior and family housing complexes. Temporary shelter and transitional housing for DV survivors.	FNPI 4a, 4b, 5f, 5n SRV 4c, 4m, 4n, 4o
2.	Seniors report high rates of being housing cost burdened.	PGI affordable housing, utility assistance to offset cost of living.	FNPI 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 5f, 5g SRV 4c, 4i, 4k, 4o
3.	Households can not afford high utility bills.	LIHEAP utility assistance. Lighthouse Family Resource Center, assistance for utilities. Sierra Community House utility assistance for TDPUD customers.	SRV 4i, 4k
4.	Families cannot afford to pay for necessary upkeep on their housing.	LIHEAP Weatherization services. Home sealing, maintenance and emergency repair and replacement, to keep low income individuals in their homes, and remain independent.	FNPI 4g, 4h, 4z SRV 4s, 4t
5.	Homebound seniors are isolated from the communities in which they live.	Meal deliveries from Sierra Senior Services and food deliveries from Auburn Interfaith Food Closet, which double as wellness checks and social interactions.	FNPI 5a SRV 5ii, 5jj
6.	Families do not have enough food.	Food pantries from Auburn Interfaith Food Closet, Sierra Community House, and meal delivery for homebound seniors by Sierra Community House and AIFC.	FNPI 5a SRV 5ii, 5jj
7.	Families face trauma and mental health challenges.	Counseling services for adults, children, and families, as well as group counseling from Lighthouse.	FNPI 5c, 5d, 5e SRV 5v, 5w, 5z, 5aa, 5mm, 7a
8.	Individuals need a safe environment in which to live free from abuse.	Domestic violence emergency intervention, prevention, and education from Sierra Community House. Counseling services from Lighthouse.	FNPI 2e, 5d, 5e, 5z SRV 5w, 5x
9.	Families facing eviction need legal services.	Legal aid and mediation between tenants and landlords from Sierra Community House.	SRV 4f, 7m
<p>Agency Priorities: Rank the needs identified as a priority in Table 1: Needs Table according to your agency's planned priorities. Ideally, agencies should use ROMA needs statement language. Insert row(s) if additional space is needed.</p> <p>Description of programs, services, activities: Briefly describe the program, services, or activities that your agency will provide to address the need. Including the number of clients who are expected to achieve the indicator in a specified timeframe.</p> <p>Indicator/Service Category: List the indicator(s) (CNPI, FNPI) or service(s) (SRV) that will be reported on in Modules 3 and 4 of the CSBG Annual Report.</p>			

Part II: Community Action Plan

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Sections 12745(e), 12747(a)

California Code of Regulations Sections 100651 and 100655

Vision and Mission Statements

ROMA – Planning

1. Provide your agency's Vision Statement.

"Help people become self-sufficient by driving innovative solutions through community partnerships."

2. Provide your agency's Mission Statement.

Project GO, Inc. is a non-profit community action organization that advocates for and enhances the quality of life of low to moderate income and at-risk families and seniors. To accomplish this, we:

1. Develop, build and manage affordable housing
2. Improve home energy conservation
3. Provide emergency utility assistance
4. Empower people at risk and in poverty, opportunities to become self sufficient

Causes and Conditions of Poverty

Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2, 3.2, 3.4

ROMA – Planning

1. Describe the key findings of your analysis of information collected directly from low-income individuals to better understand their needs. (Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2)

Project GO conducted a community needs survey from which we gathered information about present and emerging needs of low-income individuals in our county. This survey was made available to anyone entering our office, and to clients and other community members who communicated with our staff via email. From December 2024 to March 2025, we collected 47 responses from individuals about what they perceived to be the most important challenges facing low-income individuals in Placer County.

Respondents were asked to rank the following categories in level of importance based on their impact for low-income families and individuals: education and job skills; income, infrastructure, and asset building; employment; health and social/behavioral development; housing; and civic engagement. Housing (safe, affordable housing and homeless services) was ranked as the highest priority by 48.94% of respondents. This reinforces our perception that housing affordability and homeless support and prevention are top needs in our community. Employment (finding and maintaining quality employment) and Health and Social/Behavior Development (access to health and mental health services, affordability) tied for the second ranking. Abundant employment opportunities that offer a living wage and quality health care coverage are pillars to a strong community that can support the economic wellbeing of its residents. In third place, respondents chose Education and Job Skills (early education, career development), in fourth was Income, Infrastructure, and Asset Building (credit building, budgeting, saving), and in last place Civic Engagement and Community Involvement (civic events, recreation activities, community groups).

Next, the survey asked about what particular sectors need the most support. A list of services was provided and respondents could choose any number of services as priorities. The survey responses indicate that our community sees the most need for rent and mortgage assistance (61.7%), low-cost rental housing (59.57), food insecurity (53.19%), weatherization and utility bill assistance (48.94%), homeless services and prevention (46.81%), senior services (44.68%), and counseling services (34.04%). Since becoming the Community Action Agency of Placer County, Project GO has subcontracted a portion of the CSBG funding to other local agencies in order to support a wide range of services. As funding for social services face greater scrutiny and funding cuts, agencies will be in greater competition for financial support. We will use this feedback to prioritize our choice of subcontractors for the 2026/27 cycle.

The level of difficulty to meet basic needs is also something that we have taken into consideration when ranking priorities in the needs assessment. Survey respondents indicated that they found it most difficult to pay for household utilities (70.21% chose “very difficult”), make rent or mortgage

payments (58.70%), access affordable, healthy foods (47.73%), and find and keep a job that pays a living wages (43.48%). Access to sufficient modes of transportation and maintaining health care coverage were most often considered “moderately difficult.” Access to quality, affordable child care and access to treatment for substance abuse or addiction were most frequently indicated as not applicable to respondents.

The Placer County 2024 Homelessness Point in Time Count and Report surveyed 702 homeless individuals who were found to be either sheltered or unsheltered in January 2024. Volunteers collected demographic information about each person, details about disabilities, health status, experiences with domestic violence, foster care, the justice system, their veteran status, their history with homelessness such as when and where they first experienced homelessness, etc. Data from this report provides insight to challenges related to homelessness and how low-income individuals may have become homeless in the first place.

Collecting both quantitative and qualitative data directly from low-income individuals is a vital step in understanding what challenges members of our community are facing. Project GO has used this information to inform what needs represent the greatest priorities in our community.

2. Describe your agency's assessment findings specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for your service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.2)

Broken down by gender, the residents of Placer are comprised of 206,282 females (50.73%) and 200,326 males (49.27%). The proportion of men living in households with income below the federal poverty level is approximately 6.25%, and 7.35% for women. For the 2023 CSBG Annual Report, Project GO and our subcontractors recorded gender information for 7,006 individuals of the 13,854 served. Self-reporting males accounted for 30.2% of those served, females 69.7%, “Other” made up .1%. The disparity could be a reflection of particular need in our service area, of access or comfort in seeking assistance, income disparities during productive years and the lasting effects on wealth, or that more women generally are choosing to go through the necessary steps to apply and receive services.

Seniors make up a larger proportion of the population in Placer County than state and country averages. Individuals 65 years and older account for 19.96% of the population, with 33% of people 55 years or older. This high percentage impacts the socio-economic conditions of the county now, and in the coming years as the population continues to age. Project GO has accordingly focused its efforts to a higher degree on serving the low-income senior population in our county. We have done so through the development of low-income senior apartment complexes, supporting meal and food box delivery for homebound seniors, and other senior services.

Housing affordability is an issue across socioeconomic groups in the county and state, but the California Department of Aging has offered additional context on how seniors fare with high housing costs. Seniors in the county are more likely to own their homes, but they are also more likely to be cost burdened. For seniors households, 83% are owner-occupied and 17% are renters, compared to 66% owner-occupied and 33% renters for all households. 52.23% Of renters in the county are cost

burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities, but senior renters are cost burdened at a rate of 62%.

The population of Placer County is predominantly made up of individuals identifying as white, non-Hispanic, at 75.41%. This is in contrast to the diversity present across California. The Sacramento Bee reported that between the 2020 census and July of 2023, Placer's overall population grew 3.95%, with Asian, Black and Hispanic populations driving growth. When considering median household income by race/ethnicity in Placer, non-Hispanic white households earn slightly more than the median in California (\$110,648 to \$104,752), whereas Black and Asian households in Placer have median household incomes that are considerably higher than the overall state average (\$122,929 and \$139,016 compared to \$64,513 and \$118,815).

3. "Causes of poverty" are the negative factors that create or foster barriers to self-sufficiency and/or reduce access to resources in communities in which low-income individuals live. After review and analysis of your needs assessment data, describe the causes of poverty in your agency's service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.4)

Data from the US Census Bureau shows that as of 2023, the poverty rate in Placer County was 6.4%. This is down from an earlier estimate in 2018-22 of 6.81%. The 2023 rate of poverty across the state was nearly twice as high, at 12%. The rate of poverty is lower in the main incorporated cities of Placer, such as Roseville and Rocklin. Pockets of poverty exist in those cities, including the old Roseville neighborhood where Project GO is located. Further east, the rural areas of the county have higher rates of poverty.

Placer County boasts one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state, with the most recent data reported by EDD's Labor Market Information Division for December 2024 reporting an unemployment rate of 4.0%, with 7,800 unemployed individuals. The county has a labor force of approximately 196,200 individuals, with 188,400 employed as of this report. The average unemployment rate for 2024 was slightly higher, at 4.2%. While the proportion of leisure and hospitality, service industry jobs, and many health care services jobs are expected to increase in the double digits by 2030, workers in these lower-wage positions will likely struggle to keep up with the high cost of living in Placer County.

The Placer County 2024 Homelessness Point in Time Count Report shows a homeless population of 702 (sheltered and unsheltered), down from 709 in 2023 and 750 person in 2022. Of those counted, 34% were found to be chronically homeless, with the proportion of chronically homeless unsheltered individuals decreasing. There were 336 sheltered individuals, and 366 unsheltered in 2024. Of those surveyed during the 2024 Point in Time Count, 46% reported having a mental health disorder, 36% with a substance abuse disorder, and 62% had a disabling condition. 93 Of the 702 people had a history of experiencing domestic violence. Homelessness is not a singular issue, and often times there are underlying factors that have contributed to someone losing their home. The loss of a job, mental and physical health difficulties, substance use disorders, and the ever-rising cost of housing all have the power to destabilize a family and lead to homelessness.

Housing cost burdened households spend more than 30% of their income on rent or mortgages and their utilities. In Placer County, that number is approximately 34.26%, roughly 5% lower than the state average, but nearly 4% higher than the US average. Severely cost burdened households spend more than 50% of their income on housing, and 15.03% of Placer households fall into that category. For renters, the rate of being cost burdened is even higher, at 52.23%. Senior renters are a staggering 62% cost burdened. Although it is getting better within Placer County, housing affordability is important in today's socio-economic environment, because low-income families are financially burdened by high rents and home prices that divert necessary resources from food, healthcare and other basic needs.

The cost of housing in California outpaces the national average, and affordability continues to be a barrier for prospective home owners. The CA Legislative Analyst's Office reported in January 2025 that California homes are about twice as expensive as typical US homes. A mid-tier US home at the conclusion of 2024 cost an average of \$357,000, compared to an average bottom-tiered home in California for \$474,000 and a mid-tier home averaging a whopping \$771,000. Pre-pandemic, home and rent prices were high, but wages have failed to keep up with the ever increasing housing costs, especially for homeowners. Monthly rent payments have grown 35% since 2020, with mid-tier home payments increasing by 84% and bottom-tier monthly home prices by 88.5%, compared to a 22% increase in wages for Californians during the last five years. The National Association of Realtors reports that the median home cost in Placer County is \$696,720, only \$25,000 less than the state average. Housing affordability has been impacted by a trend of higher net worth buyers who have moved from the Bay Area and have priced out locals, driving up housing costs for both would be owners and renters.

4. "Conditions of poverty" are the negative environmental, safety, health and/or economic conditions that may reduce investment or growth in communities where low-income individuals live. After review and analysis of your needs assessment data, describe the conditions of poverty in your agency's service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.4)

The conditions of poverty in Placer County are related to the economy, cost of living, and access to services. The cost of living in Placer County is one of the highest in the state. The last four years have seen an increase of 76% in the average monthly payment for a newly purchased bottom tier home, and a 29.9% growth in rental costs since 2020. While the percentage of people below the poverty line is relatively small in comparison (6.81% compared to 12.12% state wide, per the US Census Bureau), those who are considered to be low income struggle to afford the high cost of housing, food, and other necessities. The rate of poverty is lower in the main incorporated cities of Placer, such as Roseville and Rocklin. Pockets of poverty exist in those cities, including the historic Roseville neighborhood where Project GO's office is located, and in nearby Lincoln. Further east, the rural areas of the county have higher rates of poverty.

For many residents of the county, renting is a more affordable option when faced with the high cost of buying a home. The cost of renting in Placer County has continued to rise to levels unsustainable for the lowest income residents in our area. The Fair Market Rent standards published by HUD represent standardized rent amounts for a moderately-priced dwelling unit within any given housing market.

The FMR for a two bedroom unit in Placer County as of June 1st, 2024 is \$2,072, the same for Sacramento and El Dorado County which lie within the same HMA. A household would need to make a net income of \$82,770 per year to afford this rent at 30% of their income, in line with the affordable housing rate set by HUD. Rental costs are outpacing increases in income, further pinching families struggling to afford expenses.

Housing affordability for would-be buyers has been impacted by a trend of population growth fueled by higher earning Bay Area residents moving into the county. The California Comprehensive Housing Market Analysis of June 2022, of the Sacramento-Roseville-Arden-Arcade area, California, breaks down the Housing Market Area (HMA) into three submarkets: Sacramento County, Yolo County, and the Eastern Counties (with Placer and El Dorado County). The report found that between 2012-2019, approximately 71% of movers to the subarea of the Eastern Counties came from the Bay Area, as people were priced out and looked for more affordable options to the east. The National Association of Realtors reports that the median home cost in Placer County is \$696,720, only \$25,000 less than the state average. In Placer County, the last four years have seen an increase of 76% in the monthly payment for a newly purchased bottom tier home, and a 29.9% growth in rental costs since 2020.

The MIT Living Wage Calculator shows the hourly rate individuals in a household must earn in order to support housing, utility, and other basic needs for the household. A single adult living in Placer County with no children would need to earn \$30.06/hour working full time to cover typical living expenses. In a household with two working adults and two children, both adults would need to earn \$36.28/hr. If only one adult was working, with the second adult out of the workforce, maybe to care for their children, an hourly wage of \$53.82 would be needed to support the household. If those two adults, both working, did not have children to support, they would still need to earn \$20.04 to afford typical living expenses. With a current minimum wage of \$16.50, those two adults face a shortfall of \$14,726 for the year. Keeping up with the cost of food, housing, taxes, transportation, utilities, child care, let alone recreation, hobbies, continuing education, etc. can be a constant struggle for families and individuals, particularly those earning at or near minimum wage.

Access to healthy foods is vital to the health of families at all socioeconomic levels in the county, and while food insecurity is comparatively low in Placer, there are still individuals who struggle to access and afford enough nutritious food. As of January 2024, 28,032 individuals and 16,658 households were enrolled in CalFresh in Placer. 7,616 Children under the age of 18 received CalFresh at one time in 2023. Benefits paid out to households averaged \$313.50 that month.

5. Describe your agency's data and findings obtained through the collecting, analyzing, and reporting of customer satisfaction data.

Project GO collects customer satisfaction data for our own programs, and from our subcontractors for their programs. Collecting, analyzing, and reporting on such data is important part of the ROMA cycle, and to ensure that the programs and services being offered are meeting the needs of our clients. Satisfaction surveys, and collecting additional data from cards and letters written by our

clients, allow for low-income individuals to provide direct feedback about their experiences and voice their opinions about what is working and what isn't.

We collect feedback from our weatherization clients upon the completion of our services. Each client is provided with a customer satisfaction survey where they can evaluate the work that was done, and make note of any remaining problems or concerns. The results of these surveys are recorded on a spreadsheet and presented to the Board at each board meeting. It is a standing item on our consent calendar. The Board are also apprised of customer issues and what has been or is being done to correct any issues or concerns from the customer. Letters and cards sent by clients are also copied and shared with the Board.

A customer satisfaction survey was launched in April 2025 to collect targeted data from clients about their experience with our utility assistance program and our weatherization services. Results from this survey have started to come in, and will be collected for the next 2 quarters.

We have also collected customer satisfaction data from our subcontractors, the results of which are shared with our Board of Directors. Our board reviews this satisfaction data, and may take customer feedback into consideration when making choices about future CSBG funding allocations.

Tripartite Board of Directors

CSBG Act Sections 676B(a) and (b), 676(b)(10)

Organizational Standards 1.1. 3.5

ROMA – Evaluation

1. Describe your agency's procedures under which a low-income individual, community organization, religious organization, or representative of low-income individuals that considers its organization or low-income individuals to be inadequately represented on your agency's board to petition for adequate representation. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(10), Organizational Standard 1.1)

The procedures for representation in our tripartite board have not changed. In accordance with the CSBG Act, 1/3 of Project GO, Inc.'s (PGI) tripartite board is made up of individuals who are either themselves low-income, or act as the voice of the low-income members of the community in which they live. PGI requires that representatives of the Low-Income sector are to submit the "Petition for Candidacy" form, signed by five (5) persons who reside in the low-income community that they will be serving and who have knowledge of their ability to represent the low-income population of Placer County.

Title 22 § 100605

Low-Income Representatives:

- (1) "Democratic selection process" for the purposes of this article, shall be defined as a methodology reflecting the choice(s) of the people.
- (2) Although representatives of the poor need not themselves be poor, they must nonetheless be selected in a manner, which ensures they truly represent the poor.
- (3) Area Representatives of Low-Income Persons. Should a community action program be concerned primarily with compact geographic areas in which poverty is concentrated, such as neighborhoods or "target areas" of the community, the representatives of the low-income shall be selected by the residents of those neighborhoods or areas. All residents of any such neighborhood or area may participate in the selection process, but special emphasis and attention must be given to ensuring that those residents who are poor participate fully in the selection process.

2. Describe your process for communicating with and receiving formal approval from your agency board of the Community Needs Assessment (Organizational Standard 3.5).

The CSBG Board committee reviews the CAP/CNA and, if accepted without changes, puts together a recommendation for the Full Board. If any changes are required by the full board, they are made on the spot. Once approved, they are submitted to CSD.

Service Delivery System

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(A)

State Plan 14.3a

ROMA - Implementation

1. Describe your agency's service delivery system. Include a description of your client intake process or system and specify whether services are delivered via direct services or subcontractors, or a combination of both. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(A), State Plan 14.3a)

Project Go utilizes subcontractors for CSBG services, while also offering utility assistance and weatherization services to our own clients. The service delivery model for our utility assistance weatherization programs are similar. We utilize applications forms from CSD and our own, collect documentation from our clients, and record the data in the Servtraq system. Referrals are made between each of our programs, and we direct our intake staff to listen for key information coming from our clients to make sure they are aware of and connecting with other services they may need and for which they qualify. Our housing tenants are served with safe, affordable housing. A service coordinator is on site at our senior complexes to offer additional assistance with navigating other assistance programs.

It is the intention of Project GO to continue funding 4 agencies for 2026-2027 that will address many of the needs of Placer County's low-income community. Clients are screened for income, and documentation is gathered according to the policies of each agency. Each one of those agencies offer different services for low income families and individuals, using distinctive strategies and a diverse intake system as well as following unique rules on privacy of their customer data. Our CSBG subcontractors are required to report on services, outcomes, and demographic information as part of the Annual Report process. Some of these agencies use the HUD Management Information Systems and PGI has requested that the Annual Report demographics information be provided as recorded by this software. They are also regularly monitored during the billing process for fiscal compliance. This allows us to oversee that CSBG funds are being spent to meet the needs of low-income individuals in our service area.

2. Describe how the poverty data related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity referenced in Part II: Causes and Conditions of Poverty, Question 2 will inform your service delivery and strategies in the coming two years?

The senior population in Placer County is represented by a higher percentage than the state or national average, with 19.96% of people age 65 and older, and a whopping 33.23% aged 55 and older. California's seniors, 65 and older, account for just 14.90% of the population, and nationally seniors are 16.53% of the total population. Keeping this in mind, we make particular efforts to ensure that the programs supported by CSBG funds address the particular needs to those seniors, such as housing, nutrition, and accessibility.

While Placer seniors are more likely to be homeowners than their younger counterparts, our needs assessment details that they are housing cost burdened at a higher rate, with 62% of seniors who rent spending more than 30% of their income on basic housing costs.

Project GO intends to continue funding programs that are serving seniors in our service area, including the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet and Sierra Seniors Services, which runs the Meals on Wheels program in the Tahoe/Truckee area. Both programs provide nutritional assistance to seniors in need, most of whom struggle to afford or acquire adequate supplies of healthy, nutritious foods.

Auburn Interfaith Food Closet (AIFC) has been providing fresh foods to people and families in need in the Sierra foothills area for a quarter century. Their food pantry program allows guest to pick up food boxes once per month, enough to make 12 meals for each household member. For homebound seniors, or others who are disabled, lack transportation, or are unable to visit the food bank during regular business hours, groceries are delivered monthly straight to their doors through AIFC's Home Delivery Program.

The mission of Sierra Senior Services, located in Truckee, is to deliver nutritious meals to seniors to help them maintain independence while addressing food insecurity and isolation. A vast team of volunteers delivers hot meals directly to their doors. For many of the seniors they serve, the volunteers represent their only daily social interactions. These daily deliveries serve not only as a means of addressing food insecurity, but also as wellness checks and combating the isolation that many disabled seniors face. SSS coordinates with local hospitals to aid recently discharged patients, and with neighboring agencies including Sierra Community House to get hot meals in the hands of those who need them. Through these programs, seniors face some relief for the high cost of living in our county, as well as benefit from social interactions and de facto wellness checks.

Crisis Intervention programs from Sierra Community House address domestic violence, homelessness, the difficulties facing families with children, the added barriers to service for non-English speakers – these needs can all be better understood and addressed within the context of who specifically is living within our service area.

Linkages and Funding Coordination

CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(1)(B) and (C); 676(b)(3)(B), (C) and (D); 676(b)(4), (5), (6), and (9)

California Government Code Sections 12747(a), 12760

Organizational Standards 2.1

State Plan 9.3b, 9.4b, 9.5, 9.7, 14.1b, 14.1c, 14.3d, 14.4

1. Describe how your agency coordinates funding with other providers in your service area. If there is a formalized coalition of social service providers in your service area, list the coalition(s) by name and methods used to coordinate services/funding. (CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(1)(C), 676(b)(9); Organizational Standard 2.1; State Plan 14.1c)

PGI subcontracts with other agencies in our area, allowing us to leverage funds to address needs outside of those that we address through our own programs. We chose subs that may have smaller budgets or big ideas that would benefit from the additional funding.

PGI Staff (Executive Director and CSBG Program Director) attends and participates in meetings and trainings provided by the Placer Collaborative Network (PCN), and the Placer Consortium on Homelessness (PCOH) on a monthly and quarterly basis. There are hundreds of agencies and programs that belong to these groups. We are committing staff and resources to more actively participate in meetings with members from all sectors of the community who have an interest in addressing this county-wide issue.

PGI also participates with our partner agencies that provide education, training, advocacy, transportation, counseling, housing, services for seniors and people with disabilities, domestic violence intervention, emergency services, nutrition, childcare, employment, and other services that support family self-sufficiency within Placer County. PGI collaborates and partners with community and faith-based organizations in our region to provide to those most in need, as well as the Placer County Workforce Investment Board.

2. Provide information on any memorandums of understanding and/or service agreements your agency has with other entities regarding coordination of services/funding. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(C), Organizational Standard 2.1, State Plan 9.7)

Project GO subcontracts services to other agencies to address needs identified in the Community Needs Assessment. While the Sub agreements are per calendar year, it is understood that depending on the availability of funds, and barring any other major issues, we will contract them in the first and second year of the Community Action Plan.

These are the agencies that we intend to subcontract with and a brief service description:

Sierra Senior Services – Senior Meal Delivery and Wellness Check. (Lake Tahoe Area)

Auburn Interfaith Food Closet – Senior Meal Delivery (outlying areas of Placer County)

Sierra Community House – Domestic/Sexual Violence, Mobile Food Pantry, Family Strengthening, Legal Support, Rental Assistance, and Counseling Services.

Lighthouse Counseling and Family Resource Center – Evidence Based Counseling, Psychoeducational groups, and Family Resource Center.

Through the intake process, we are made aware of some of our clients' need that we can not address ourselves. We use this information to make referrals and soft hand offs to other programs, either to our subs, or other unrelated agencies in the area.

3. Describe how your agency ensures delivery of services to low-income individuals while avoiding duplication of services in the service area(s). (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(5), California Government Code 12760)

Project GO utilizes subcontractors for CSBG funded programs and services. We have worked with a range of agencies in the past addressing a broad assortment of needs in our community, including but not limited to: nutritional assistance, meal delivery for homebound seniors and people with disabilities, mental health services, legal aid, rental and utility payment assistance, counseling, enrollment in CalFresh, WIC, Medi-Cal, diapers, financial literacy, wellness checks, violence prevention and education, victim support and advocacy, crisis intervention services, and referrals.

Each agency that we work with has their own methodology for screening clients for income eligibility. We ask that our subcontractors detail for us how they determine eligibility, and then we confirm that those guidelines are being followed by the subs during the monitoring process.

CORE is used by HEAP staff to verify that our utility assistance clients have not already received help in Placer or other counties during the program year. The state database ECORE is used by the weatherization staff to verify if households have previously received weatherization services. We use an internal database to track client records to avoid duplication of services. Communication between agencies, and being aware of what programs and services each provides, is crucial for avoiding duplication.

4. Describe how your agency will leverage other funding sources and increase programmatic and/or organizational capacity. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(C))

The CSBG funds that Project GO directs to subcontracts help support their organizational capacity by supplementing other agency funding. Subcontractors in the past have used the funds to cover staff salaries and benefits, pay for raw food, rent and convert vans for safe food transport, etc., all of which are supportive elements for the various programs each agency offers to low-income individuals.

In house, Project GO is supplementing program funding for our utility assistance program by enrolling eligible clients in REACH. REACH helps clients who are facing utility shut off with additional funds, and Project GO receive a small reimbursement for administrative efforts for each application submitted. These reimbursements are then folded back into direct service costs for our UA clients. The additional assistance for clients' energy bills when they are facing disconnection strengthens the safety net available to them. By enrolling our clients in this additional assistance

program, we hope to lower the current and potentially the future burden on LIHEAP funds, and assist more clients overall.

We also use income earned from our rental properties to sustain and grow our programs. Project GO hopes to also obtain funding through private contracts with area utility companies in the coming years, as well as pursuing grants for additional funding.

5. Describe your agency's contingency plan for potential funding reductions. (California Government Code Section 12747(a))

We address potential funding reduction as they come to us. We have not yet had a reduction to plan for, though with the end of pandemic-era funding, from CARES and ARPA, our team has learned to be flexible in our expectations.

For CSBG, we subcontract dollars to other agencies providing services in Placer County. In the event that Federal funds become insufficient to support services at contracted levels, contract amounts will be reduced among all sub-contractors. During the RFA process, we ask that potential subcontractors detail how their plans for CSBG funds and their service delivery would be impacted by incremental reductions, should the amount of funds listed in their contract differ from final program allocations. Contract language in all sub-contracts stipulates that agreements may be amended to reflect reduced funding (as required by Government Code Section 12747(a)).

6. Describe how your agency will address the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs and promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(1)(B), State Plan 14.1b)

Children age 0 to 17 account for 21.94% of the population in Placer County. This is slightly lower than that of the state, 22.3%, and the whole country, with 22.11% of the population under the age of 18. For the 2023-2024 school year, roughly 76,000 students were enrolled in K-12 education. A point in time survey of CalFresh recipients in 2023 showed that 7,616 children were receiving benefits.

Poor mental health can have lifelong effects on individuals of any age and their families, and access to care is out of reach for many people, particularly those with little or no income. Lighthouse Counseling and Family Resource Center offers no-cost counseling for individuals and families covering a variety of topics, including for couples and families, adolescents and teens, and individual therapy to address many topics such as grief. Of the 1,856 individuals served by Lighthouse across their various programs in 2024, 839 of them were under the age of 18. The agency has seen an increase in need for crisis counseling for youth, and has been able to magnify their impact by expanding to four offices in Lincoln, Auburn, Roseville, and Rocklin. The Family Resource Center at Lighthouse helps address the practical needs of their clients and families while they receive counseling services. Services include nutrition and rental assistance, diapers, transportation assistance, referrals and case management, and partnership with Child Protective Services and Placer County's District Attorney's office in cases of abuse or neglect. Project GO has partnered with Lighthouse to use CSBG funding to support the cost of these essential counseling sessions.

Sierra Community House is also working to address the needs of youth and families in our county. Project GO has partnered with them in the past, and intends to continue doing so for the 2026/27 term. They offer early learning programs for children age 0-4, along with support for their families and caregivers. One such program is SCH's Family Room, a free bilingual program where pre-school aged children learn to socialize, and parents learn about childhood development and parenting.

7. Describe how your agency will promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth, and support development and expansion of innovative community-based youth development programs such as the establishment of violence-free zones, youth mediation, youth mentoring, life skills training, job creation, entrepreneurship programs, after after-school childcare. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(1)(B), State Plan 14.1b)

Cross-agency cooperation and collaboration will aid in addressing the multitude of needs of youth. The 'youth' are not a monolith; our agency and others must have a multi-faceted approach to serving this group. Counseling and educational support from Lighthouse can be part of this effort. They provide assistance through their involvement in the Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center including, but not limited to, victim witness advocacy, therapeutic services and case management.

The Community Education & Prevention Program at Sierra Community House provides violence prevention education to adults and youth in the Tahoe-Truckee Area. Their Youth Empowerment Groups at local schools support young people and help them connect, learn, and grow. These groups are intended to provide a safe space for students to discuss topics relevant to their lives, such as healthy friendships and relationships, mental health, and communication skills.

PGI does not provide CSBG Services directly, with the exception of Weatherization, Utility Assistance and Low-Income Housing. Currently we do not provide direct youth services or fund for youth services, but we have in the past years. If there is a RFA for our funding and a "youth Initiative" applies for funding, they are considered based on the focus of funding, strength of their plan for service delivery and budget, then they may be selected to be a subcontractor.

8. Describe your agency's coordination of employment and training activities as defined in Section 3 of the Workforce and Innovation and Opportunity Act [29 U.S.C. 3102]. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(5); State Plan 9.4b)

Placer County boasts one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state, with the most recent data shared by EDD's Labor Market Information Division for December 2024 reporting an unemployment rate of 4.0%, with 7,800 unemployed individuals. The county has a labor force of approximately 196,200 individuals, with 188,400 employed. Placer's rate of unemployment is slightly higher than the national average, 3.9%, but lower than the state rate of 5.3%.

Gainful employment for those who can work is a vital step toward independence. Workforce readiness, resume building, education support, legal assistance, mental health programs to prepare

individuals to enter the workforce, financial literacy classes – these are all services that support employment. We intend to continue subcontracting with Lighthouse Counseling and Resource Center to address these service needs. They will also aid with developing employment goals, and enrollment in the Placer County Business Advantage Network for job leads.

9. Describe how your agency will provide emergency supplies and services, nutritious foods, and related services, as may be necessary, to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(4), State Plan 14.4)

Project GO has previously worked with local agencies who provide vital assistance and emergency aid to clients who need extra nutritional support, Auburn Interfaith Food Closet (AIFC), Sierra Senior Services (SSS), and Sierra Community House (SCH). We plan to continue supporting these nutrition programs for elderly and at risk populations.

AIFC's food pantry program allows guest to pick up food boxes once per month, enough to make 12 meals for each household member. Groceries are also delivered monthly straight to the doors of homebound seniors through their Home Delivery Program. Eligible guests who find leaving their home difficult and lack the support of family members or caregivers who can visit the food closet on their behalf can have nutrition food brought to their home by a team of volunteers.

Health and mobility challenges can make shopping and cooking for oneself very difficult, if not impossible, and not every person in need has the support of family or caregivers to make sure they have access to quality food every day. The mission of Sierra Senior Services, located in Truckee, is to deliver nutritious meals to seniors to help them maintain independence while addressing food insecurity and isolation. Their congregate dining program, available Tuesday through Fridays, offers a chance for their more mobile clients to dinner together, visiting with others and making social connections, while enjoying a hot, nutritious meal prepared fresh daily. For seniors who are primarily homebound, a vast team of volunteers deliver hot meals directly to their doors.

Food insecurity isn't only a crisis faced by seniors, but by individuals and families of all ages. One of many services offered by Sierra Community House is their weekly food distribution program. They offer walk-up and drive-through food distribution at three sites in Truckee, Kings Beach, and Incline Village, Nevada. Emergency non-perishable food boxes are also made available at seven locations in the region.

PGI also provides the free use of our senior apartment community rooms to the Senior Nutrition Program, so they can prepare hot, nutritious meals for the residents of those communities, as well as non-residents, three days a week.

Project GO has found through our needs assessment and input from community members that access to nutritious food, and enough of it, is a top need in our community. A 2025 report by Placer County on "Assets, Issues, and Opportunities" found that, "Addressing inequitable access to health foods in Placer County is crucial to reduce the incidences of heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and obesity in lower-income and underserved areas."

10. Is your agency a dual (CSBG and LIHEAP) service provider?

☒ Yes

☐ No

11. For dual agencies:

Describe how your agency coordinates with other antipoverty programs in your area, including the emergency energy crisis intervention programs under Title XXVI, relating to low-income home energy assistance (LIHEAP) that are conducted in the community. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(6), State Plan 9.5)

For all other agencies:

Describe how your agency coordinates services with your local LIHEAP service provider?

Project GO is the LIHEAP service provider in Placer County. We offer emergency assistance to low-income households experiencing threats of utility disruption and active shut offs. Applications from our UA clients who are shut off or facing service disruption are prioritized and processed as quickly as possible. We also provide emergency heating and cooling services as funding allows, and offer portable heaters and air conditioning units when applicable.

Our subcontractors each address emergencies within their own programs, supported in part by CSBG funds. SCH responds to emergency crisis situations in countless ways. Mediation and legal services are offered to tenants facing eviction in the Tahoe/Truckee area. For victims of domestic violence, SCH offers legal aid and advocacy, medical and mental health support, basic needs support, emergency shelter, and long-term living assistance, as well as a vital 24-hour community helpline. Food insecurity isn't a crisis only faced by seniors, but also by individuals and families of all ages. Weekly food distribution and emergency non-perishable food boxes are made available to clients in need by Sierra Community House.

Lighthouse Counseling and Family Resource Center offers no-cost counseling for individuals and families covering a variety of topics, including for couples and families, adolescents and teens, and individual therapy to address many topics including grief. The agency has seen an increase in need for crisis counseling for youth, and have been able to expand their impact by expanding to four offices in Lincoln, Auburn, Roseville, and Rocklin. Their Family Resource Center helps address the practical needs of their clients while they receive counseling services. Services include nutrition and rental assistance, diapers, transportation assistance, referrals and case management, and partnership with Child Protective Services and Placer County's District Attorney's office in cases of abuse or neglect. Project GO has partnered with Lighthouse to use CSBG funding to support the cost of these essential counseling services.

12. Describe how your agency will use funds to support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives, which may include fatherhood and other initiatives, with the goal of strengthening families and encouraging effective parenting. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(D), State Plan 14.3d)

PGI will continue to subgrant to agencies that propose services to address the needs that were identified through the Community Needs Assessment, with special preference given to innovative and collaborative proposals. The PGI Board and Staff will also look at innovative programs that have been developed outside of our service area that would fit the needs for Placer County, and apply for funding to provide those services.

13. Describe how your agency will develop linkages to fill identified gaps in the services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management, and follow-up consultations. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(B), State Plan 9.3b)

The needs of low-income individuals and families are vast and diverse. No single agency could be expected to meet all of the needs of an individual to lift them out of poverty. Thus, clients benefit when agencies work together to form a patchwork of services, addressing a wide array of topics.

Project GO has chosen to continue subcontracting with other local agencies in our service area to address a broad range of needs. This also includes looking at geographic differences, and paying special attention to low-income individuals in the more remote Tahoe/Truckee area in the eastern part of the county.

Our agency receives countless calls requesting services outside of our own scope of expertise. By educating our staff on what other programs are available in our area, and by listening carefully to what our clients share with us with regard to their struggles, we can refer those clients to the appropriate agencies that may be able to assist them. This will lead to a more comprehensive service delivery model. We can provide warm hand offs, or provide information to clients so that they can pursue other resources on their own.

Maintaining an accurate database of information of our own, and providing updates about our programs to other networks such as 211, is essential to keeping an eye on gaps in services. Following up with clients is a pathway to assess if needs are being met, or what else they may need to achieve independence from poverty. Case management can illuminate identifiable needs, and uncover emerging or more common barriers.

Monitoring

ROMA – Planning, Evaluation

1. If your agency utilizes subcontractors, please describe your process for monitoring the subcontractors. Include the frequency, type of monitoring, i.e., onsite, desk review, or both, follow-up on corrective action, issuance of formal monitoring reports, and emergency monitoring procedures.

Project GO includes a written policy describing monitoring requirements as part of our annual subcontract. Agencies that receive CSBG funding from Project GO can expect the following:

Monitoring Schedule: Each subcontractor will undergo monitoring during the contract term, and monitoring will occur on an ongoing basis. Monitoring of fiscal documents and contractor payment request forms with back-up documentation will take place throughout the year. Subs will also be monitored during the Annual Report process.

On-Site Monitoring Visits: For agencies that have never been funded by PGI or have not been previously visited in person, we will conduct an on-site monitoring visit. The scope may include a programmatic walkthrough, agency tour, or overview of service delivery. An on-site tour allows CSBG staff to become better acquainted with the services and delivery models of each unique agency, while communicating the programmatic and reporting requirements associated with the CSBG contract.

Desk Review: A desk review is done for each subcontract once per contract year. Tasks performed include but are not limited to a review of selected documentation relevant to the CSBG program, including;

- Annual report submitted by the Contractor
- CSBG Committee / Board approved Contractor budget
- CSBG Committee / Board approved Contractor service delivery plan
- Contractor payment request forms and backup documentation
- Review of contract file and invoice reports
- Review of mid-year and close-out expenditure reports to determine if program costs are properly documented and allowable
- Other relevant documents or reports (e.g. redacted client files, projected and actual service counts, etc.)

Reporting: After a desk review or on-site monitoring, contact will be made with the subcontractor either verbally or in writing, summarizing the monitoring process and results. The report will address any findings, recommendations, and corrective actions to prevent the recurrence of future discrepancies, if applicable.

Corrective Action: Corrective action on findings are shared with subcontractors, to be addressed immediately. PGI has the right to hold payment of reimbursements until the corrections have been made and/or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate.

ROMA Application

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12)

Organizational Standards 4.2, 4.3

ROMA – Planning, Evaluation



1. Describe how your agency will evaluate the effectiveness of its programs and services. Include information about the types of measurement tools, the data sources and collection procedures, and the frequency of data collection and reporting. (Organizational Standard 4.3)

Evaluating the effectiveness of programs or services on an ongoing basis is an essential step in the ROMA cycle. A program that has been designed and implemented isn't complete once services have been delivered. Instead, the outcomes of those services must be examined in order to determine what worked, what didn't, and what improvements can be made moving forward.

The CSBG Annual Report offers Project GO an opportunity to look at our programs, both CSBG funded programs run by our subcontractors and our own in-house LIHEAP programs and housing services, on a broad scale. Data is collected across all of these programs, detailing who received assistance, what outcomes occurred as the result of interventions by Project GO and our subcontractors, and how well each agency was able to target and meet its own expectations.

The Annual Report is provided by Project GO to the sub-contracted agencies in electronic format along with all instructions, updates, and report dates to facilitate our timely reporting to CSD. The CSBG Staff works closely with the agencies to ensure that the data they are providing is accurate and correctly categorized. This data is evaluated along with the fiscal evaluation to ensure that grant funding provided is being spent in a way that generates the biggest return on the dollar amount, as well as follows the Office of Management and Budget guidelines.

We have a Customer Satisfaction Survey for the some of the programs that we offer at our agency. These surveys are reported and provided to the Board of Directors at each Board meeting on the consent calendar. The Executive Director and the Program Managers monitor these reports to continue to look for ways to improve our service delivery. We will continue to look for ways to improve our delivery to ensure we are providing the most efficient services we can.

We have also collected customer satisfaction data from our subcontractors, the results of which are shared with our Board of Directors. Our board reviews this satisfaction data, and may take customer feedback into consideration when making choices about future CSBG funding allocations.

2. Select one need from Table 2: Priority Ranking Table and describe how your agency plans to implement, monitor progress, and evaluate the program designed to address the need. (Organizational Standard 4.2)

Seniors report high rates of being housing cost burdened, family level need. Housing cost burden is an indicator that tells us the percentage of households that spend more than 30% of their income on rent or mortgages and their utilities. Data from our CNA shows that seniors are cost burdened at a greater rate than the average in Placer County. Seniors can be supported in this need in multiple ways, some of which Project GO is able to address through our in-house programs, and others such as nutritional support, addressed by our subcontractors.

Project GO has built and manages five low-income apartment complexes in Placer County for families and seniors. These apartment units offer seniors safe housing that is more affordable for many on fixed incomes. We measure success by tenants maintaining residency, being able to continuously live independently and support their own housing costs. Our UA program also supports seniors and the high cost of utility bills.

Optional

- 3 . Select one community level need from Table 2: Priority Ranking Table or your agency's most recent Community Needs Assessment and describe how your agency plans to implement, monitor progress, and evaluate the program designed to address the need. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12), Organizational Standard 4.2)

Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances

CSBG Act Section 676(b)

Use of CSBG Funds Supporting Local Activities

676(b)(1)(A): The state will assure “that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used – (A) to support activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals, including families and individuals receiving assistance under title IV of the Social Security Act, homeless families and individuals, migrant or seasonal farmworkers, and elderly low-income individuals and families, and a description of how such activities will enable the families and individuals--

- a. to remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self- sufficiency (particularly for families and individuals who are attempting to transition off a State program carried out underpart A of title IV of the Social Security Act);
- b. to secure and retain meaningful employment;
- c. to attain an adequate education with particular attention toward improving literacy skills of the low-income families in the community, which may include family literacy initiatives;
- d. to make better use of available income;
- e. to obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment;
- f. to obtain emergency assistance through loans, grants, or other means to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs;
- g. to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the communities involved, including the development of public and private grassroots
- h. partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, local housing authorities, private foundations, and other public and private partners to
-
- i. document best practices based on successful grassroots intervention in urban areas, to develop methodologies for wide-spread replication; and
- ii. strengthen and improve relationships with local law enforcement agencies, which may include participation in activities such as neighborhood or community policing efforts;

Needs of Youth

676(b)(1)(B) The state will assure “that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used – (B) to address the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs that support the primary role of the family, give priority to the prevention of youth problems and crime, and promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth, and support development and expansion of innovative community-based youth development programs that have demonstrated success in preventing or reducing youth crime, such as--

- I. programs for the establishment of violence-free zones that would involve youth development and intervention models (such as models involving youth mediation, youth mentoring, life skills training, job creation, and entrepreneurship programs); and
- II. after-school childcare programs.

Coordination of Other Programs

676(b)(1)(C) The state will assure “that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used – (C) to make more effective use of, and to coordinate with, other programs related to the purposes of this subtitle (including state welfare reform efforts)

Eligible Entity Service Delivery System

676(b)(3)(A) Eligible entities will describe “the service delivery system, for services provided or coordinated with funds made available through grants made under 675C(a), targeted to low-income individuals and families in communities within the state;

Eligible Entity Linkages – Approach to Filling Service Gaps

676(b)(3)(B) Eligible entities will describe “how linkages will be developed to fill identified gaps in the services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management, and follow-up consultations.”

Coordination of Eligible Entity Allocation 90 Percent Funds with Public/Private Resources

676(b)(3)(C) Eligible entities will describe how funds made available through grants made under 675C(a) will be coordinated with other public and private resources.”

Eligible Entity Innovative Community and Neighborhood Initiatives, Including Fatherhood/Parental Responsibility

676(b)(3)(D) Eligible entities will describe “how the local entity will use the funds [made available under 675C(a)] to support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives related to the purposes of this subtitle, which may include fatherhood initiatives and other initiatives with the goal of strengthening families and encouraging parenting.”

Eligible Entity Emergency Food and Nutrition Services

676(b)(4) An assurance “that eligible entities in the state will provide, on an emergency basis, for the provision of such supplies and services, nutritious foods, and related services, as may be necessary to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals.”

State and Eligible Entity Coordination/linkages and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Employment and Training Activities

676(b)(5) An assurance “that the State and eligible entities in the State will coordinate, and establish linkages between, governmental and other social services programs to assure the effective delivery of such services, and [describe] how the State and the eligible entities will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in the State and in communities with entities providing activities through statewide and local workforce development systems under such Act.”

State Coordination/Linkages and Low-income Home Energy Assistance

676(b)(6) “[A]n assurance that the State will ensure coordination between antipoverty programs in each community in the State, and ensure, where appropriate, that emergency energy crisis intervention programs under title XXVI (relating to low-income home energy assistance) are conducted in such community.”

Community Organizations

676(b)(9) An assurance “that the State and eligible entities in the state will, to the maximum extent possible, coordinate programs with and form partnerships with other organizations serving low-income residents of the communities and members of the groups served by the State, including religious organizations, charitable groups, and community organizations.”

Eligible Entity Tripartite Board Representation

676(b)(10) “[T]he State will require each eligible entity in the State to establish procedures under which a low-income individual, community organization, or religious organization, or representative of low-income individuals that considers its organization, or low-income individuals, to be inadequately represented on the board (or other mechanism) of the eligible entity to petition for adequate representation.”

Eligible Entity Community Action Plans and Community Needs Assessments

676(b)(11) “[A]n assurance that the State will secure from each eligible entity in the State, as a condition to receipt of funding by the entity through a community service block grant made under this subtitle for a program, a community action plan (which shall be submitted to the Secretary, at the request of the Secretary, with the State Plan) that includes a community needs assessment for the community serviced, which may be coordinated with the community needs assessment conducted for other programs.”

State and Eligible Entity Performance Measurement: ROMA or Alternate System

676(b)(12) “[A]n assurance that the State and all eligible entities in the State will, not later than fiscal year 2001, participate in the Results Oriented Management and Accountability System, another performance measure system for which the Secretary facilitated development pursuant to section 678E(b), or an alternative system for measuring performance and results that meets the requirements of that section, and [describe] outcome measures to be used to measure eligible entity performance in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization.”

Fiscal Controls, Audits, and Withholding

678D(a)(1)(B) An assurance that cost and accounting standards of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are maintained.

State Assurances

California Government Code Sections 12747(a), 12760, 12768

For CAA, MSFW, NAI, and LPA Agencies

[California Government Code § 12747\(a\)](#): Community action plans shall provide for the contingency of reduced federal funding.

[California Government Code § 12760](#): CSBG agencies funded under this article shall coordinate their plans and activities with other agencies funded under Articles 7 (commencing with Section 12765) and 8 (commencing with Section 12770) that serve any part of their communities, so that funds are not used to duplicate particular services to the same beneficiaries and plans and policies affecting all grantees under this chapter are shaped, to the extent possible, so as to be equitable and beneficial to all community agencies and the populations they serve.

For MSFW Agencies Only

[California Government Code § 12768](#): Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) entities funded by the department shall coordinate their plans and activities with other agencies funded by the department to avoid duplication of services and to maximize services for all eligible beneficiaries.

Organizational Standards

Category One: Consumer Input and Involvement

Standard 1.1 The organization/department demonstrates low-income individuals' participation in its activities.

Standard 1.2 The organization/department analyzes information collected directly from low-income individuals as part of the community assessment.

Category Two: Community Engagement

Standard 2.1 The organization/department has documented or demonstrated partnerships across the community, for specifically identified purposes; partnerships include other anti-poverty organizations in the area.

Standard 2.2 The organization/department utilizes information gathered from key sectors of the community in assessing needs and resources, during the community assessment process or other times. These sectors would include at minimum: community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, private sector, public sector, and educational institutions.

Category Three: Community Assessment

Standard 3.1 (Private) Organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3 years.

Standard 3.1 (Public) The department conducted or was engaged in a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3-year period, if no other report exists.

Standard 3.2 As part of the community assessment, the organization/department collects and includes current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for their service area(s).

Standard 3.3 The organization/department collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment.

Standard 3.4 The community assessment includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed.

Standard 3.5 The governing board or tripartite board/advisory body formally accepts the completed community assessment.

Category Four: Organizational Leadership

Standard 4.2 The organization's/department's Community Action Plan is outcome-based, anti-poverty focused, and ties directly to the community assessment.

Standard 4.3 The organization's/department's Community Action Plan and strategic plan document the continuous use of the full Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) cycle or comparable system (assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation). In addition, the organization documents having used the services of a ROMA-certified trainer (or equivalent) to assist in implementation.

Part III: Appendices

Please complete the table below by entering the title of the document and its assigned appendix letter. Agencies must provide a copy of the Notice(s) of Public Hearing, the Low-Income Testimony and the Agency's Response document, and a copy of the most recent community needs assessment as appendices A, B, and C, respectively. Other appendices as necessary are encouraged. All appendices should be labeled as an appendix (e.g., Appendix A: Notice of Public Hearing) or separated by divider sheets and submitted with the CAP.

Document Title	Appendix Location
Notice of Public Hearing	A
Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response	B
Community Needs Assessment	C
CSBG Community Needs Survey Responses Report	D