

Guiding Principles

- Develop a comprehensive, coordinate and evidence-based program that meets the specific needs of the South Norwalk neighborhood and the Washington Village residents.
- Provide individualized, strengths-based, and family-centered case management services and supports in a culturally competent manner.
- Capitalize on and align with existing networks and initiatives, such as Norwalk ACTS, the Greater Norwalk Area 2012 Community Health Improvement Plan and the ACHIEVE initiative.
- Emphasize collaboration among a network of partners who creatively leverage and align community assets to facilitate greater collective impact for the target population and neighborhood.

Population Profile

Priority Households: Washington Village

Households: 136

Individuals: 308

Age Distribution:

- Children: 124 (40%)
 - 0-5: 52
 - 6-18: 72
- Adults: 182 (60%)
 - 19-64: 160
 - 65+: 24

Persons with Disabilities: 41 (13%)

Household Income:

- Median household income: \$14,101
- % with Employment Income: 60%

Target Neighborhood: South Norwalk

Households: 921

Individuals: 1,966

Age Distribution:

- Children: 346 (18%)
 - 0-4: 134
 - 5-17: 212
- Adults: 1,620 (82%)
 - 18-64: 1,442
 - 65+: 178

Persons with Disabilities: NA

Household Income:

- Median household income: \$42,476
- % with Employment income: 81%

Income & Employment Findings

- High rates of unemployment (17%) compared to City and County (10%)
- Only 60% of Washington Village residents have earned income
- Significant barriers to employment
- Limited enrollment in education and training
- Stated need for financial literacy services

Health & Wellness Findings

- Good access to quality, affordable health care (90%+)
- Increasing need for mental health and substance abuse counseling and services
- High rates of obesity and chronic disease including hypertension, diabetes, and high cholesterol
- High rates of teen pregnancy

Limited English Proficiency Findings

- 1 in 3 residents identifies as Hispanic/Latino
- 29% of residents speak Spanish as their primary language; 10% speak Creole
- Nearly 1 in 5 households has a member that does not speak English well
- 1 in 5 residents is not a U.S. citizen

Education Findings

- Target Population:

Washington Village (WV)	South Norwalk
Ages 0-5: 52	Ages 0-4: 134
Ages 6-18: 72	Ages 5-17: 212
Total: 124	Total: 346

- Limited enrollment (50%) in early learning programs
- Students are bussed to 11 K-12 schools around the City of Norwalk
- Most high school-aged students attend Norwalk High School, a low-performing school
- Wide achievement gap in most commonly attended schools, and throughout Norwalk Public Schools
- Households indicate a need for youth programs of all types



EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Stepping Stones/Norwalk ACTS

- Network of over 45 education organizations and stakeholders that collaborate to deliver a continuum of educational opportunities from cradle to career for Norwalk residents
- Norwalk ACTS founded in 2005 by Jim Carter, Norwalk Children's Foundation, and David Levinson, NCC, to address growing achievement gap
- Stepping Stones Museum for Children became chair and host site for Norwalk ACTS
- Joined the STRIVE Cradle to Career network in fall 2012
- Recently hired Director for Norwalk ACTS

Early Learning

Children enter kindergarten ready to learn.

- Improve the quality and capacity of early learning programs
 - Encourage NAEYC accreditation process
 - Promote early childhood quality rating systems
 - Professional development and mental health consultation to provider staff
- Increase enrollment in high quality early learning programs
 - Case managers and community messengers assist with enrollment in high quality programs
 - Establish new NHA Early Head Start program
 - Expand Early Language and Literacy Initiative (ELLI) Lab Schools
 - Create new early childhood education program at South Norwalk Community Center
- Connect families to supports that promote early childhood health and literacy-rich, safe, and supportive home environments

K-12 Schools

Children are proficient in key academic subjects and graduate from high school college and career ready.

- Enroll students in out-of-school time programs that offer academic enrichment and hands-on learning
- Encourage and prepare young adults for the transition to college
- Expand school assets to support the needs of the school community
- Support implementation of reforms designed to improve school quality and eliminate the achievement gap