



After School & Summer Youth Program TALBOT COUNTY, MD

The Neighborhood Service Center, Inc.

2019-2020 Edition

Executive Summary



The Neighborhood Service Center, Inc. (NSC) mission is to *work toward eliminating poverty by empowering families to be self-sufficient.* Beginning in 2019, NSC has worked with Governor Hogan, Maryland General Assembly, and the Maryland Community Action Partnership to implement the Two-generation (2GEN) approach to focus on creating opportunities for and addressing needs of both children and the adults in their lives together. The approach recognizes that families come in all different shapes and sizes define themselves. The purpose of 2GEN is to work towards breaking the generational cycle of poverty. As such, NSC has aligned two of its programs 1) the Dorothy W. Black Youth Program (After School and summer) and 2) NSC's Affordable Housing Program. Through the afterschool program, NSC has been able to survey the families of the youth center, as well as, various other families of NSC's programs. The surveys

allowed us to review the perceived barriers, immediate, and long term goals of the family members, and possible solutions (see NSC's 2019 - 2022 Community Needs Assessment). Under the 2GEN process, the families of the children in NSC's Youth Program, receive intake. Based on the findings, bundled services are recommended/provided: 1) Food pantry; 2) Rapid Re-Housing; 3) Emergency Assistance; 4) Eviction Prevention; 5) Energy Assistance; and 6) Referral to other Supportive Services. The bundled approach, provides after care for working low-income families; stable housing; and assistance with overall daily maintenance. NSC believes that under this approach, the **WHOLE FAMILY THRIVES!**

Through the support of the United Fund of Talbot County, 15 youth participated in the after school program and 12 youth participated in the youth program in FY2020. NSC provided monthly on average:

- 240 nutritional meals
- 240 snacks
- 24 homework assistance hours
- Music lessons
- Improved math skills
- Improved reading skills
- Improved study skills
- Improved behavior at home, at school, and in the after school program.
- Enhanced life skills

- Guest Speakers
- Improved family relationships
- Improved computer skills

NSC via the support of United Fund of Talbot County, spends on average, \$76 per child per week and/or \$19 per day. The students enrolled in this program excel in school and are on the Honor Roll or the Principle's Roll. The program runs each school year from September thru May, Monday thru Thursday. The Summer Program runs June – August, Monday thru Thursday.

Why after-school is effective?



According to an article, [Benefits for Youth, Families and Communities, www.youth.gov](#) (retrieved March 2020), “Effective afterschool programs bring a wide range of benefits to youth, families, and communities. Afterschool programs can boost academic performance, reduce risky behaviors, promote physical health, and provide a safe, structured environment for the children of working parents.” Moreover, NSC has found that the after school program, allows families to get their education and workforce training, as well as receive

social supports such as parenting skills and economic stabilization. The article also listed additional findings on the benefits of afterschool programs:

- ❖ *Reduced drug use*
- ❖ *Improved classroom behavior*
- ❖ *Improved Academic Performance*
- ❖ *Encouraging Good Dietary Habits*
- ❖ *Working families and business also derive benefits as afterschool programs ensure that youth have a safe place to go to work.*

The history of NSC's after school program

NSC has been a “rock” to the low-income community of Talbot County for over 50 years and for many, the point organization of contact for economic crisis assistance. Most low-income individuals and families know that they come to NSC for either a resource (food, shelter, living costs, etc.), a resource-referral, or both.

As stated by Patricia Hawkins, a former NSC after-school participant, (now in her 50s, joined NSC's program about the time the agency opened), “NSC's after school program allowed me to socialize with others. It helped me to know I had somewhere to go after school instead of being where I should not be. It kept us safe and away from stuff I should not be exposed to. It helped my mother because she knew where we were and what time we would come through the door. It provided others that cared about us and who were nurturing to us, while also reinforcing family rules.” Ms. Hawkins credits NSC for providing an opportunity for her to excel as a child. After serving in the Military, Ms. Hawkins re-entered civilian workforce and later returned in to NSC to complete her “college interview requirement” to obtain her Bachelor's Degree, then again, in the summer of 2019 to do her Practicum to

work towards completing her Master’s Degree with Wilmington University.



Ms. Patricia Hawkins

Ms. Hawkins further stated that *“NSC’s afterschool program gave us somewhere safe and fun. We did arts and crafts too. There were stations we could go to and knit, paint or color. We were excited to go to the afterschool program. Each day it was something different to do. We knew every day we would get a snack, help with homework, then a movie/arts and crafts or swimming. For me, it was a lot of fun. As a mother, it inspired me to make sure my son had a snack as well as something to do after school, when we lived out-of-state. Since I was in afterschool, I knew the importance of making sure my son (when he was younger) had something to do. If he was lacking in skills, I made sure he would find a resource for extra help with reading.”*

Ms. Hawkins reflected on how she feels it has come full circle, *“This year, I filled out the necessary paperwork for my daughter, Mya, to help to supervise the students in the afterschool program, while earning service-learning hours.”*

Outcomes such as Ms. Hawkins is why NSC has remained and will continue to be unwavering with its mission to work toward eliminating poverty by empowering families to be self-sufficient.

Afterschool Partnerships

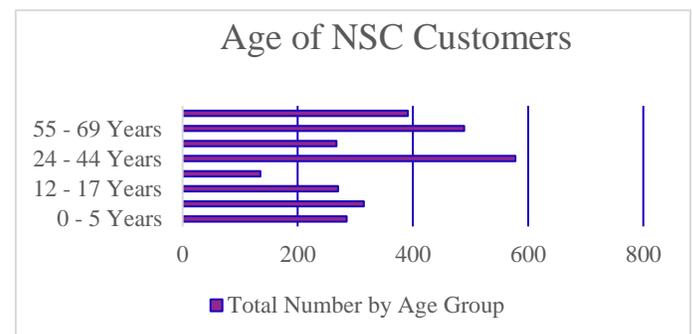
In FY 2020, NSC partnered with Allegro Academy and its Director, Amy Morgan. Allegro Academy linked with NSC’s afterschool program to connect musicians of all ages from beginner, intermediate, and advanced students to the best local and international artists through workshops, lessons, ensembles, and public instrumental and choral performances to enrich the lives of musicians and enthusiasts of all ages and incomes in our community. All of NSC’s afterschool children received scholarships (based on need) to participate in the activity the first Wednesday of each month.

Historically, NSC has partnered with local banks (for budgeting and money management classes); home buyer classes; and other local entities to provide enriching workshops and guest speakers.

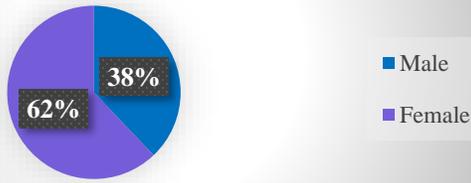
Moreover, NSC’s Afterschool Program provides Talbot County Public School (middle and high school) students an opportunity to gain “student service learning hours” as a part of their graduation requirement. In FY 2020, NSC received 432.58 volunteer (student learning hours).

A look at NSC’s FY2019 Community Served...

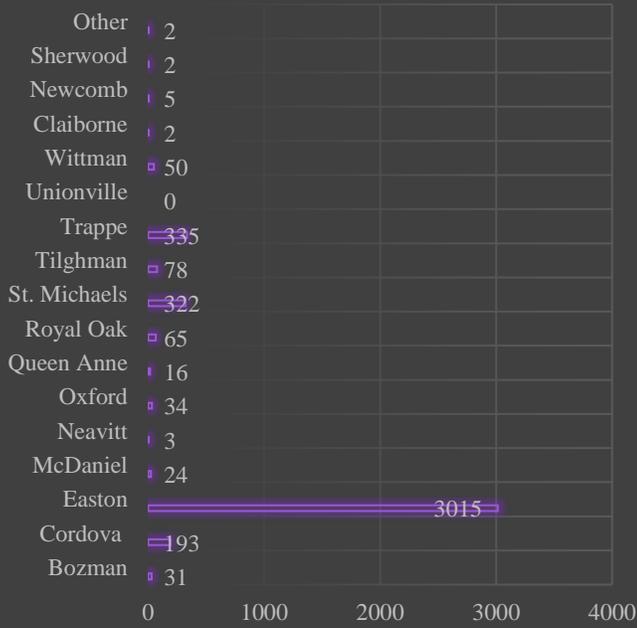
In FY 2019, NSC provided 5,632 services in 16 towns and districts in Talbot County. In total, NSC served 1,433 households, representing 2,730 unduplicated individuals.



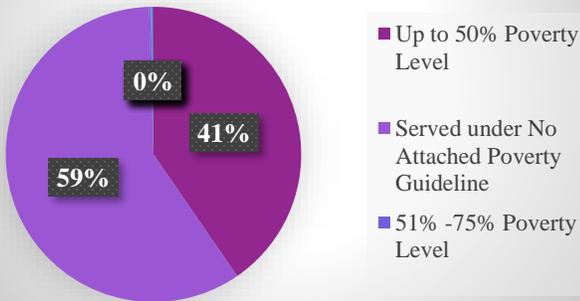
Gender of NSC Customers



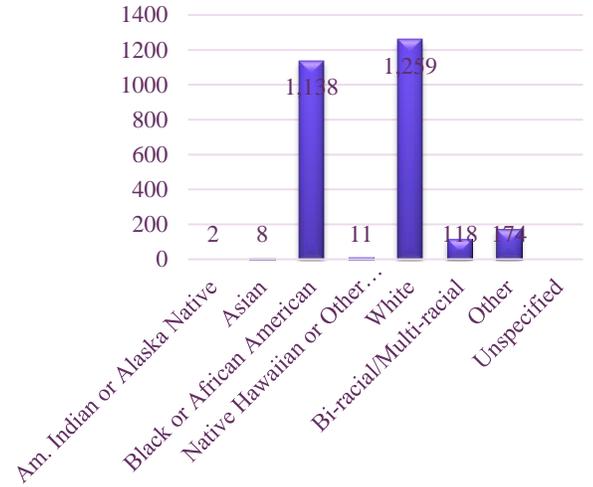
of Services by Town/City



Household Income by Percentages



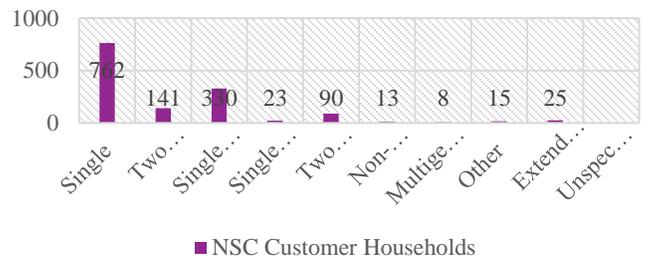
Race of NSC Clients



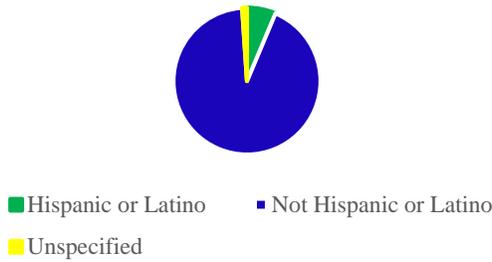
Educational Level of NSC Clients



NSC Customer Households



Ethnicity of NSC Clients

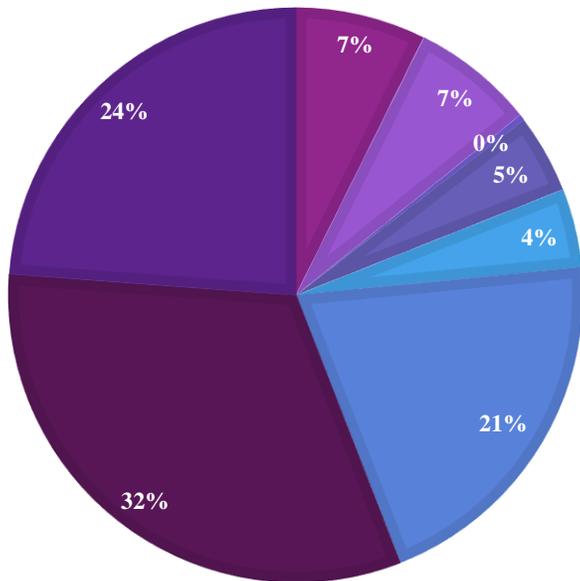


NSC's FY 2019 Grant/Foundation Funding

The Neighborhood Service Center, Inc. is appreciative of the Grant/Foundation Funding during FY 2019 for its various programs. Below is a listing of FY2019 funding by category:

GRANT/FOUNDATION FUNDING

- HSP
- EAP
- Talbot County
- MEAP Benefit
- RAP
- ESG, TEFAP, Misc
- United Fund
- MEAP Admin
- CSBG



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