

# League of Women Voters of Pullman Poverty in Whitman County Study 2014-2016



# Whitman County Identified as Poorest in the State

(USA Today Jan 11, 2015)

- What does this mean?
  - Who are the poor in Whitman County?
  - What services are available?
- How can LWV learn more?
  - Collect information from agencies and organizations.
    - Collect contextual information
    - Conduct interviews
- How can information be used?
  - Promote public discussion.
  - Provide information to County policy makers.
  - Provide information for grant writing.

# Incorporated Towns Whitman County

## 2010 Census US

- County

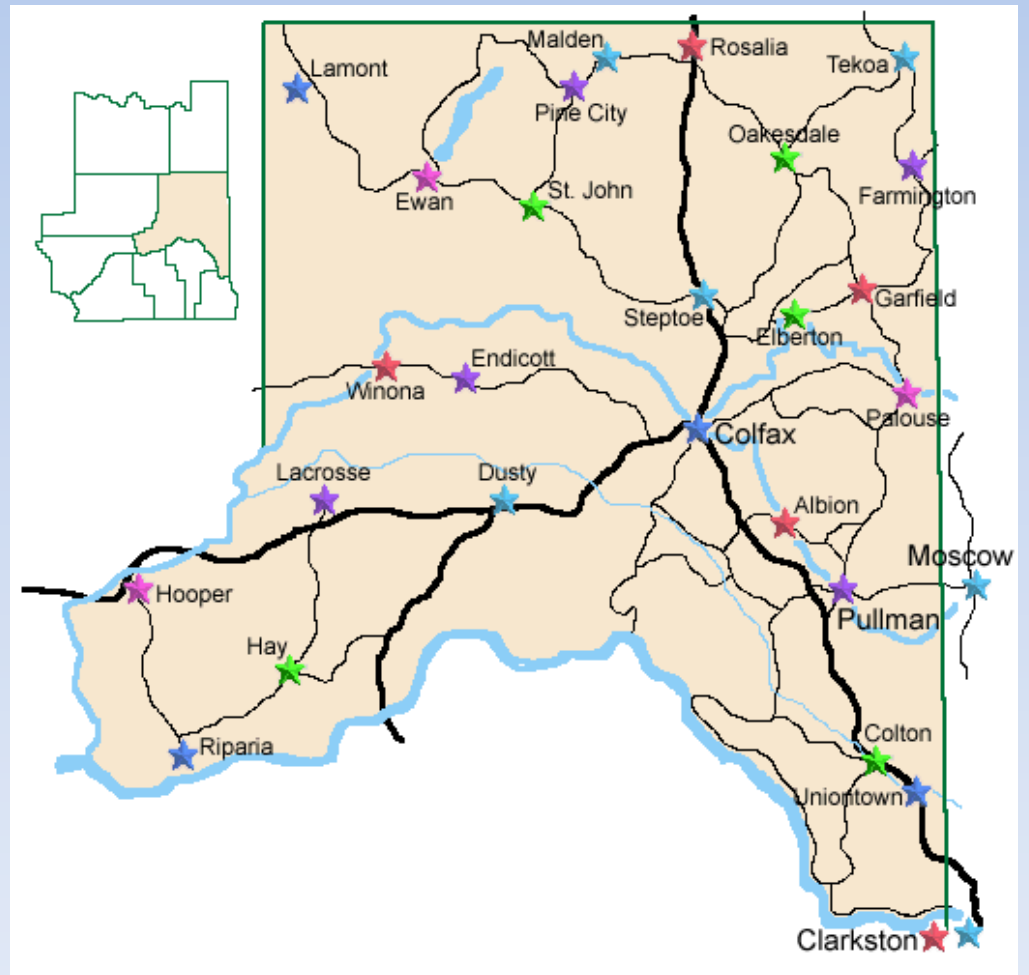
## Population

44,776

## 16 communities

- Albion
- Colfax
- Colton
- Endicott
- Farmington
- Garfield
- LaCrosse
- Lamont
- Malden
- Oakdale
- Palouse
- Pullman
- Rosalia
- St. John
- Tekoa
- Uniontown

579  
2,805  
210  
289  
146  
597  
313  
70  
203  
431  
998  
31,359  
550  
537  
778  
294



# Study Areas

- Housing
- Food security
- Childcare
- Eldercare
- Health Care
- Law Enforcement and Legal Services
- Education and Job Training
- Transportation

# Housing

- Total housing units in County 19,300
  - Owner occupied 7900
  - Rentals 9600
    - State average 33% , Whitman County 49.5%
  - Vacant units 1500
  - Median rent \$700
- 
- State wide households living in subsidized housing 5%
  - Whitman County households living in subsidized housing 3%

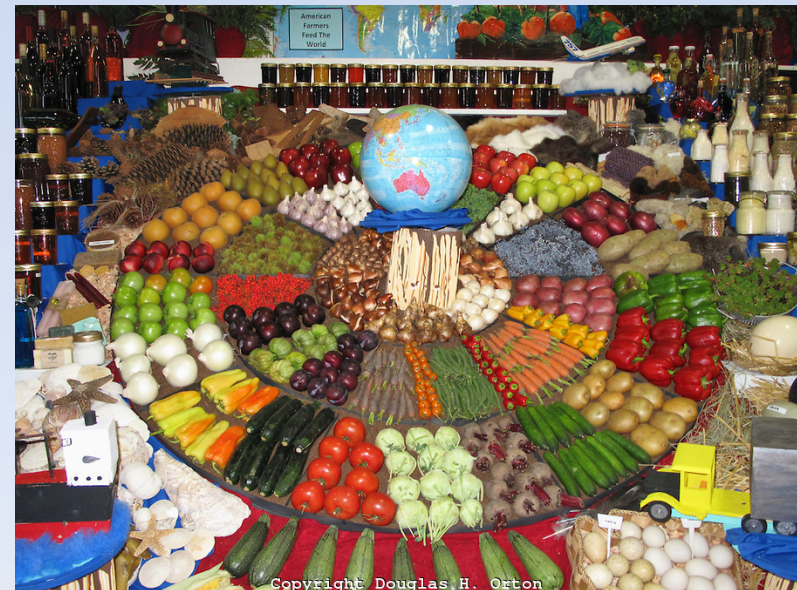


## Low Income Resources

Emergency/Short Term Programs	Type of resources	Source of \$	Resources for Whitman County	Qualification	Participant costs
CAC emergency funds	Motel vouchers				2-3 night annual limit
Poverty Awareness Taskforce/ Community Relief Fund	Some for motel vouchers	Private	\$5000-\$10,000		No cost
CAC Crises Rental Assistance					
Alternatives to Violence	Emergency housing	Grants (CAC)			
Family Promise of the Palouse	Overnight accommodations	Private	2014: 46 individuals, 22 families Whitman 33%, Latah 66%	Below poverty level	No cost
<b>Transitional Programs</b>					
Tenant Based Rental Assistance					
Temp Housing Operating and Rent		Federal/HUD			
<b>Long-term Programs</b>					
Section 8 Rental Opportunity	Rent vouchers	Federal/HUD	300		30% of gross household income
CAC Rental properties	Low income		Pullman 57	50-80% median	30% gross household income
	Low income elderly/disabled		Pullman	80% median	30% gross household income
	Low income elderly/disabled		Palouse 62	50% median	30% gross household income
	Low income families/disabled		Tekoa 8	50% median	30% gross household income
CAC Self Help	Home construction	RHED (HUD), SHOP, Conventional construction, USDA loans.	Colfax 4 Uniontown 4 Palouse (planned) 4	Family size /Income 1-\$36,259 2-\$41,400 3-\$46,600	First time home buyer, bank mortgage, 0% down payment, 100 hours labor
Habitat for Humanity	Home construction loans	Private	Albion 1 Uniontown 2 Colfax 1 Pullman 2 Palouse 2	30-60% median	\$1000 down payment 300-500 volunteer hrs. ,1 year residence in County

# Food Security

- Private Programs
  - Food pantries
    - 15 in 12 different communities
    - USDA commodities, grants, gifts
    - A few days each month, one bag per visit
  - Community gardens
    - Back yard harvest
    - Community Action Center
  - Food Deserts
    - Northern Whitman County
    - College Hill



# Public Programs

- **USDA Food Commodities**

- Food pantries (via Second Harvest and Council on Aging)
- School meals

- **SNAP**

- State average number of households receiving benefits 15%
- Whitman County

Malden	21%	Tekoa	10%	Lamont	8%	Pullman	7%
Colfax	12%	Albion	9%	Oakdale	8%	Palouse	6%
Garfield	10%	Farmington	9%	Rosalie	8%	Endicott	2%
Tekoa	10%	LaCrosse	9%	St. John	8%	Colton	0%

- **WIC** 41% of babies in Whitman County on WIC (second lowest in State)

- **School meals** (Breakfast and lunch)

Whitman County 33% of students participate (Lowest rate in Washington State)



# Childcare

- About 3788 children <9 years old
  - 1978 < 5
  - 1810 5-9
- 60% under the age of 6 have all parents in the work force
- 18.5% live below Federal Poverty Level
- 11% receive SNAP benefits



- There are about 1100 licensed childcare spaces available in Whitman County
  - Full time care costs range from \$400-\$900/month (infant care is most expensive)
- Public programs (2013-2014)
  - Head Start served 54 children in Pullman & Colfax
  - Early Head Start served 12 children in Pullman
  - ECEAP served 107 children in 8 communities
  - Working Connections Childcare Program
  - Homeless Childcare Program

# Eldercare

- There are about 4,000 people over age 65 in Whitman County

- Individuals over age 65 living below the poverty level:

Albion 0%

Colfax 6.8%

Colton 0%

Endicott 10.10%

Farmington 5.9%

Garfield 11.3%

LaCrosse 6%

Lamont 33.3%

Malden 4.7%

Oakesdale 4.3%

Palouse 18.7%

Pullman 3.6%

Rosalia 3.6%

St. John 3.6%

Tekoa 10.1%

Uniontown ?

- Meals on Wheels
- Senior Meal sites
- About 1/3 of Food Pantry users
- Community Action Center and Section 8 Housing
- 15-20% of Households receiving SNAP benefits have at least one member >60 years old



# Healthcare

- Healthcare resources
  - 2 hospitals - Pullman and Colfax
  - 3 rural clinics - Palouse, St. John, Tekoa
  - 1 walk-in and 1 Free clinic - Pullman
  - 7 mental health/substance abuse clinics - Pullman
  - 1 family planning clinic - Pullman
  - 2 public health offices
  - 3 skilled nursing homes – 2 outside Pullman
  - 5 chiropractic clinics – 2 outside Pullman
  - 19 mid-Level Practitioners
  - 12 dentists – 3 outside Pullman
  - 63 physicians/46,606--1/739—**BUT**--only 46 are primary care--1/1,370--and only 34 are “entry care” (exclude WSU & 3 pure hospitalists)--1/1370

90 % have medical insurance

86% have dental insurance

11% have Medicare

15% have Medicaid

**HEALTH  
INSURANCE**

~~ Medicaid ~~

Washington State enrollment: 1,731,798

Whitman County                      Total 7,066

Apple Health for Kids (CHIP) 2,700/of ~7,037

Elderly 261/of ~4427

Disabled 472

Pregnant women 82



# Education and Job Training

	Enrollment	Free/Red Meals	Spec Ed	504 (disability)	Dropout	Transitional Bilingual
Colfax	623	35.8%	11.8%	1.1%	8.7%	0.0%
Colton	166	2.4%	14.3%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Garfield	111	42.5%	17.0%	1.9%	14.3%	0.0%
LaCrosse	76	26.5%	18.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Oakesdale	107	33.0%	12.5%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%
Palouse	187	34.6%	19.4%	2.1%	7.1%	0.0%
Pullman	2558	29.4%	11.8%	3.4%	2.5%	4.7
Rosalia	200	64.5%	9.8%	0.0%	10.5%	0.0%
St. John	166	11.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Tekoa	181	60.1%	17.7%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%

- What special programs do you offer for homeless children?
- What state or federal programs are operational in your district for children in poverty?
- Franklin School in Pullman has an “Angel Program” which sponsors families for one year. Does your district have anything similar?
- Do you administer a questionnaire to students in your district to determine homelessness?



# Legal Services, Law Enforcement and Emergency Response

Sources of information about Legal Services Needs and Poverty in Whitman County

## Public Records and Reports

- Washington State Courts Caseload Reports
- Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid
  - Civil Legal Needs Study – Washington State University Social and Economic Sciences Research Center
- Washington State Office of Public Defense

## Interviews With Legal Services Providers

- Whitman County Superior Court
- Whitman County District Court
- Northwest Justice Project
- Whitman County Legal Services
- Whitman County Prosecutor's Office
- Whitman County Public Defenders
- Attorneys in Private Practice

## Sources of information about law enforcement and emergency response

### Interviews with:

- Whitman County Sheriff
- Police Chiefs for Colfax, Colton, Garfield, Palouse, Pullman, Uniontown, WSU
- Fire Chiefs for Albion, Colfax, Endicott, Garfield, Lamont, Malden, Oakesdale, Palouse, Pullman and WSU, Rosalia, Saint John, Tekoa, and Uniontown
- Ambulance services for Pullman and District 12, Colfax, Palouse, Oakesdale, Farmington, St. John, Rosalia, Lacrosse, Colton and Garfield
- Social worker or head of Emergency Rooms at Pullman Memorial Hospital and Whitman Hospital
- Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse

# Transportation

- Not there yet.

# Next steps

- Interview agencies and organizations
- Synthesize information
- Write draft report
- Review information and draft report with agencies and organizations
- Present final report, goal May 2016