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# *Women in Philanthropy: Women's Self-Sufficiency Survey*

## *Executive Summary*

### *October 2007*



A study of non-profits was conducted in May by United Way of Central New Mexico's Women in Philanthropy initiative, with assistance from researchers at Anderson Schools of Management at the University of New Mexico. The survey was administered electronically for the majority of non-profits, with a small number receiving the survey through the mail.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the survey was to assist Women in Philanthropy in understanding the barriers to self-sufficiency faced by women in the Central New Mexico region and to help Women in Philanthropy become an active participant in community impact surrounding this important issue. Additionally, the survey results would enable Women in Philanthropy to match volunteer needs with supply. This executive summary reports the results of the survey and action steps initiated by Women in Philanthropy to address the needs identified.

Response Rate  
232 non-profits surveyed  
20% of those surveyed responded

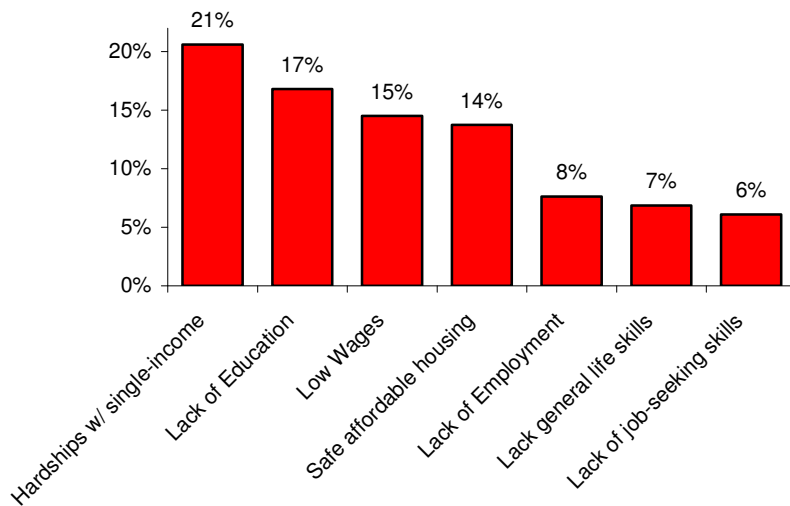
### **Demographics of Service Provider Clients**

Who are the clients served by the providers who responded?

- Primarily single females, ages 26-55
- Most live with children under 18 years of age
- Service providers are concentrated in Albuquerque and United Way's central New Mexico region

Non-profit Services Provided  
Education  
Childcare  
Housing  
Job Skill Development  
Healthcare

### **Barriers to Self-Sufficiency**



Top Barriers  
The common thread of the barriers is the employability issue

Women in Philanthropy is committed to the sustainability of non-profits addressing these top barriers

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## **Top Needs Identified**

What changes are needed to attack the root causes of poverty?

1. Improve high school graduation and GED rates
2. Provide quality after school programs
3. Improve client employability
4. Provide life and social skills training
5. Provide transitional and permanent housing

Women in Philanthropy hopes to prevent women from entering poverty by enhancing their employability based on survey results

## **Central Themes for Action Plan**

Four themes encompass the key areas for focusing Women in Philanthropy efforts.

1. Equip non-profits and service providers with resources to improve and/or increase services related to addressing top barriers to self-sufficiency.
2. Engage women at the Leadership giving level with non-profits and service providers that prepare women for employment.
3. Close the front door to women in poverty by enhancing women's employability.
4. Raise awareness of Women in Philanthropy's support for women's self-sufficiency.

### Volunteer Opportunities

1 – 10 hours weekly  
Weekdays  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Skills Needed

- Fundraising
- Board member service
- General office skills
- Event planning
- Mentors for clients
- General life skills training

## **United Way Resources**

In developing action plans, Women in Philanthropy purposefully formed their strategy to utilize existing United Way resources.

- Center for Non-profit Excellence
  - Coaching for executive directors
  - Fundraising/grant-writing
  - Board development
- Volunteer Connection
  - Match needs with supply (via the website)
  - Utilize City of Albuquerque hotline (Mayors Office of Volunteerism & Engagement).

Service providers will be able to access and utilize existing United Way resources

## **Women in Philanthropy**

Criteria for the action steps include utilizing existing services and development of measurable results to track community impact.

- Support model programs
- Develop measurable outcomes to track progress
- Increase membership and funds raised
- Communicate with Women in Philanthropy donors
- Sponsor workshop attendance for non-profits
- Focus grant-making
- Advocate for women self-sufficiency issues

A key survey objective was to mobilize women donors at the leadership level to give their time, talents and treasures to women's self-sufficiency issues

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