The Compton community boasts a strong potential for growth. Collaboration in Compton is high with individuals from various organizations coming together to meet “the needs of the people and organizations who come through our door.” This primarily consists of filling service gaps and recognizing where organizations can make a contribution. To resolve conflicts, the community looks to serve where there is “a greater need, particularly for low-income families.” One focus group participant said that they provide a format within their meetings to resolve conflicts that may arise during collaboration efforts.

Community leadership in Compton is described as “committed,” “passionate,” “dedicated,” “grassroots,” community-led” “adaptable to change,” “committed to change,” “pursuing,” and “able to manage limited resources.”

**Why Compton**

Compton has high rates of teen birth and low-birth weight (<2500 grams) babies. The community also has double the County rate of households headed by a single mother and over 10% of the area’s population age zero-to-five. Within this population, a high proportion of families participate in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program.

Compton has a high number (per zero-to-five year olds) of nonprofits, foundations and relatively high percentages of children with a licensed child care seat. The community also benefits from high Los Angeles Universal Preschool expenditures in 2010.

### Key Areas of High-Need

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Compton</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teen birth rate</td>
<td>3.5 per 1,000</td>
<td>1.4 per 1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>% of households with children headed by a single mother</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of zero-to-five year olds participating in WIC</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHFE WIC Data Mining Project, 2009</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Leadership

“No organization has the ability to do all the things that need to be done. So you build relationships with people that you’ve known for years. It takes all those years to build that commitment level, to agree on what each of us has to offer.”

The community leadership shows a strong pride for the Compton community. Leaders find out about emerging community issues through networking, going to various organizations’ meetings and getting engaged in whatever the community is involved in. Leaders also receive information from parents they work with. Collaborations have formed with the idea of maximizing resources and addressing service gaps. As one leader said, “We have a mutual interest in seeing something happen. It turns out to be the smartest way of doing business because you get to meet people and benefit from their ideas.” Parents in the community are motivated by their desire to access help with raising their children, and they recognize their influence in the community. There is a strong sense of community among residents.

Infrastructure

“Sunday feels very different in Compton than any other day. There are families everywhere, children everywhere...A lot of people are accessing referrals, information and ideas through their church.”

The Compton community has some primary strengths in infrastructure. In the Compton community, churches are a hub for families to gather and exchange information. Parks are a focus of the city government. Wilson Park has recently been refurbished and residents’ safety concerns have been addressed. A new skate park has also opened in the community, attracting up to 80 youth on a typical day. Many of the staffing resources at Compton Unified School District also include Compton residents. There are also a large number of schools and an extensive nonprofit infrastructure in Compton.

Engaging Multiple Sectors

“The community is seeing a shift in the way the different sectors work with them.”

The Compton community maintains strong relationships across different sectors. In recent times, the area has seen community-based organizations (CBOs) develop strong partnerships with public agencies, such as the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), as well as the city officials and the public education sector. DCFS has recently opened an office in Compton to serve local residents. Local elected officials are working with CBOs to bring a Farmer’s Market to the area and advocate for healthy eating. A local community clinic partners with schools to provide health services on school campuses and has a school readiness program that integrates school readiness in early childhood development programs. Furthermore, the re-opening of MLK Hospital represents an opportunity to improve coordination.

Investments

“Casey Family Programs has supported work with kinship families throughout South Los Angeles and also targets the Compton community.”

There are a number of examples of investments made in the Compton community. First 5 LA has made investments in initiatives including School Readiness, Family Literacy, Partnership for Families, and LAUP. A full-service market recently opened in this area. The Public Private Partnership school-based health centers at both Bunche Middle School and Dominguez High School have received County funding for expansion. The California Community Foundation oversees the Centinela Medical Funds, which resulted after the conversion of Centinela Hospital. Approximately $600,000 is available each year. The fund covers neighborhoods in the Compton community and is in the process of developing a strategic plan.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.