

Table 1.2: Gap Ratings for Senior Service Areas (Rapid City, SD)

Service Area	Gap Rating
Access to health care (including specialists)	Below
Mental health	Below
Fitness opportunities	Below
Independent living	Below
Assisted living & skilled care	Below
Access to services	Below
Safety	At
Development	Above
Sense of community	At
Shopping	Below
Housing	Below
Transportation, mobility and ADA-accessibility	Below
Civic & social engagement	Above
Volunteer opportunities	Above
Employment opportunities	At
Recreation opportunities	At
Religious and spiritual opportunities	At

Source: Rapid City: Senior Need Assessment and Service Gap Analysis

DAAS produces need assessments of specific service areas on a regular basis. For example, in 2014, DAAS produced a memo that attempted to estimate the unmet need for home-delivered meals and home-delivered groceries in preparation for a Hearing on the Status of Hunger and Food Security in San Francisco.

Planning staff at HSA also prepare individual needs assessments by subject area prior to the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) or Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Over the last few years, individual needs assessments in the areas of Caregiver Support, Consumer Advocacy, and Emergency Home Care were created. While these documents include detailed information about the types of services funded by the department in each area, they do not include an estimate of the unmet need for individual services.

DCYF is able to conduct a detailed gap analysis, in part because of the mandate established by the Children's Fund legislation and the allocation of resources to this analysis. While DAAS does not have the same resources to conduct a detailed gap analysis, such an analysis is important in correctly estimating the unmet need for services. Without an estimate of the unmet need for services, it is unclear what level of additional resources is warranted for a particular service area, or where resources should be allocated when they do become available. As evidenced by the memo prepared by DAAS on the need for nutrition services, there is unmet need for certain critical services such as nutrition. This should be clearly indicated in the Department's primary, multi-year Needs Assessment document.