

The need is all around us... and we know we are called to serve. Use this simple tool as a guide as you explore the best fit for your community.

Set the stage:

- Invite the right people to participate in the analysis. Include a couple people who are not usually involved in social justice programs to give you a different perspective.
- Don't try to do it all in one meeting. Some of these questions require research and reflection. Give the group enough time to dig deep and you will see the rewards.
- Be patient – it may take time to build but it will be worth it in the end
- Be clear on what you want to accomplish. For example,
 - Increase our understanding and awareness of the problem
 - Increase our ability to respond to the crisis
 - Build and expand local alliances and partnerships
 - Increase the number of members who get involved

Landscape Scan:

Understand the Need

- What does the community need? Meet with other congregations, service providers, and advocacy groups to hear their ideas.
- What types of trainings and educational opportunities around poverty and social justice issues has your community offered in the past 2 years? What gaps do you need to fill to help others understand the extent of need in the community?

What's Happening Now

- What are you already doing? Include service projects, speakers, presentations, religious school, social committees and other parts of the congregation.
- What works well? What could have been improved upon?
- Who comes? Why do you think they participate?
- Who doesn't come? What do you think stops people from participating?
- How do members learn about the programs? How do you know what people want?
- What could you do better with existing programs?

Explore Partnerships

- What are other congregations around you doing? What partnership opportunities exist within the faith community?
- Which housing/service providers in your community can you approach as potential partners?

New Programs:

Mission & Priorities

- How does this project fit into the mission, existing priorities or strategic plan for your congregation?
- What other competing organizational priorities need to be considered?
- Who are the key leaders who need to be part of the planning process?

Finances & Infrastructure

- Could you raise money for the new program without hurting another program?
- Could the congregation infrastructure (staffing/space) handle the new program?