Underserved Definition

The intent of this document is to identify the parameters by which a community can be considered underserved. The metrics provided are meant to provide an assessment of whether or not a community should be considered underserved. This assessment will allow Community Engineering Corps to ensure it is reaching appropriate communities.

Eligibility Criteria

Depending on available information specific to the *community*, the following metrics should be considered for comparison. The community must fit at least ONE of the following:

Known Data	Criteria
Median Household Income	The community must have a Median Household Income (MHI) that is equal to or less than 80% of the state's MHI.
Poverty Rate	The community must have a poverty rate that is equal to or greater than the national poverty rate.
Water Rates + Median Household Income	The community must fulfill at least ONE of the following: 1. The annual drinking water rates are higher than 2.5% of the community MHI. 2. The annual wastewater rates are higher than 2.0% of the community MHI. 3. The combined annual water/sewer rates are higher than 4.5% of the community MHI.

Data Sources

To assess the community's eligibility based on the criteria listed above, please refer to the following: Census Explorer, Census QuickFacts, and City Data. Data can be presented from many levels, including census tract, city, county, or region (combining multiple counties), whichever is appropriate to the named community. Most data can be found on Census QuickFacts for easily recognizable areas (e.g. Philadelphia, Los Angeles). Census Explorer is best used when looking for small scale information (e.g. a census tract that includes an unincorporated settlement). City Data is best used for neighborhood information (e.g. the various census tracts that make up the West Pullman neighborhood of Chicago are consolidated into a full neighborhood data source).

Census Explorer (MHI at census tract, city, county, state levels)
1. Go to www.census.gov/censusexplorer/.
2. Select the "People, Education and Income" edition.
3. On the left, select:
    a. 2013 ACS, 2012 CBP
    b. "Select a Measure" = Median Household Income
    c. "Show by" = Census Tract, County, or State, as appropriate

4. On the right, enter your community name. If the data is available, a drop down menu will appear. Select the appropriate "Place." The map will zoom to that location.
5. Hover over the location to obtain the Median Household Income.

Census QuickFacts (city, county, state data)
1. Go to www.census.gov/quickfacts/.
2. Enter the community name in the top dark blue box. If the is data available, a drop down menu will appear. Select the appropriate community. The table will update accordingly.
3. In the "People" section, scroll down to the heading "Income and Poverty." This will show Median Household Income and Persons in Poverty, Percent.
4. Enter the state name in the same top dark blue box to obtain the state's Median Household Income, if needed.

City Data (neighborhood level data)
1. Go to www.city-data.com.
2. In the center search box, type in the neighborhood name and click "Go."
3. Select the appropriate search result. A new page/tab will open.
4. Scroll slightly down the page to find the "Median household income" field.
5. Scroll almost 2/3 down the page to find the item titled "Percentage of population below poverty level."

Gaps in Information

Note that in many instances the available data is not as granular as necessary to assess the level of need at the community level; rather, the available data speaks to the county or city in which the community resides or is nearest to. For example, a trailer park community in Littleton, Colorado may not be able to provide specific MHI data, yet the city of Littleton's MHI data will not accurately reflect the needs of the trailer park. This remains a challenge in assessing whether or not a community is "underserved." In these cases, the applicant will be afforded the opportunity to provide additional explanation of why their community should be considered underserved.