



# Cache County Human Services Assessment:

## Inclusivity and Support for Diverse Populations

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# NSNC

Northern Social Services Nonprofit Coalition



College of Humanities & Social Sciences  
**Transforming Communities Institute**  
UtahStateUniversity.

# SOCIAL WORK



College of Humanities & Social Sciences  
UtahStateUniversity

### ***About Northern Social Services Nonprofit Coalition***

The Northern Social Services Nonprofit Coalition (NSSNC) develops and promotes Cache Valley social service nonprofit organizations to enhance access, improve service quality, and raise awareness of support systems to improve the lives of local individuals and families. Their vision is that Cache Valley families and individuals are safe, housed, supported and empowered through advocacy, education, direct services, and continuous collaboration. NSSNC members include leadership representatives from the following organizations: CAPSA, Neighborhood Nonprofit Housing Corporation, Options for Independence, The Family Place, English Learning Center, Cache Refugee & Immigration Connection, Cache Food Pantry, Utah Families Feeding Families, 4 Helping Hearts, Logan Pride Foundation, Cache Valley Humanitarian Center, Little Lambs Foundation of Utah, Boys & Girls Club of Northern Utah, Cache Valley Veterans Association. These organizations are united in their efforts to “compete together for the community.”

### ***About Transforming Communities Institute***

The Transforming Communities Institute at Utah State University responds to community-identified needs across Utah. Drawing on strengths and assets, TCI collaborates and engages with stakeholders to transform communities through research, professional education and training, advocacy, and action to build strong, resilient and inclusive communities. TCI envisions that all Utahns will live in thriving, vibrant communities.

## **The Current Project**

As Cache Valley grows, the strain on current human services has grown, and the lack of necessary resources to address social problems has become painfully obvious. The current project, the Cache County Human Services Assessment, provides local service agencies and policymakers with information regarding available human service programs and organizations, barriers that prevent people from accessing services, and potential gaps in services. Five areas of human services in Cache County were explored in the study: homelessness and housing; aging and people with disabilities; food insecurity; mental health and substance use services; and inclusivity, and support for diverse populations. Data were gathered from local organizational leaders who responded to an emailed survey. If an organization did not respond, secondary data were gathered via online research. The study was designed and implemented as a collaborative effort of the Northern Social Services Nonprofit Coalition, USU’s Transforming Communities Institute, and USU Department of Social Work students of the 2022 MSW Organizations & Community course with the oversight of Dr. Jayme Walters.

In this report, the findings and recommendations are shared from organizations that promote inclusivity and diversity through their services. In March and April 2022, a mixed-methods Qualtrics survey was emailed to these organizations. The data gathered during the assessment period were analyzed using descriptive statistics and qualitative analysis of two-cycle coding (descriptive and pattern coding).

## **Background**

### ***Inclusivity and Support for Diverse Populations***

Topics related to inclusivity and support for diverse populations have proved to be controversial, and at times, residents of Cache County have had difficulty accepting and welcoming diverse populations.<sup>1,8</sup> In 2021, two high profile occurrences highlighted that biases and lack of diversity acceptance still exist in Cache County. At one local high school, two students showed up on Halloween in racist costumes depicting “black face” and KKK robes.<sup>6</sup> In another instance, a Logan woman of color returned home to find her “Black Lives Matter” sign burning on her lawn.<sup>7</sup> Despite these incidents, some progress in the

area has been made related to building an inclusive community through festivals and celebrations of different cultures as well as the development of services and organizations that provide valuable services for diverse populations.<sup>8</sup>

### **About Service Providers Addressing Inclusivity and Diversity in Cache County**

Five of 15 organizations serve immigrants and refugees in Cache County. The Refugee & Immigration Center assists with life skills training, interpreting, translation, and refugee resettlement. The U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services “provides immigration benefits to people entitled to stay in the U.S. on a temporary or permanent basis.”

<sup>2</sup> The Centro de la Familia de Utah and English Language Center (ELC) are focused on providing educational resources. The Centro de la Familia de Utah administers the Migrant Head Start and Head Start for children ages zero to five. They also provide education for Spanish-speaking adults. The ELC offers English classes, citizenship preparation, technology classes, and employment assistance. The Cache Refugee & Immigrant Connection specializes in facilitating referrals for services with governmental and nonprofit organizations.

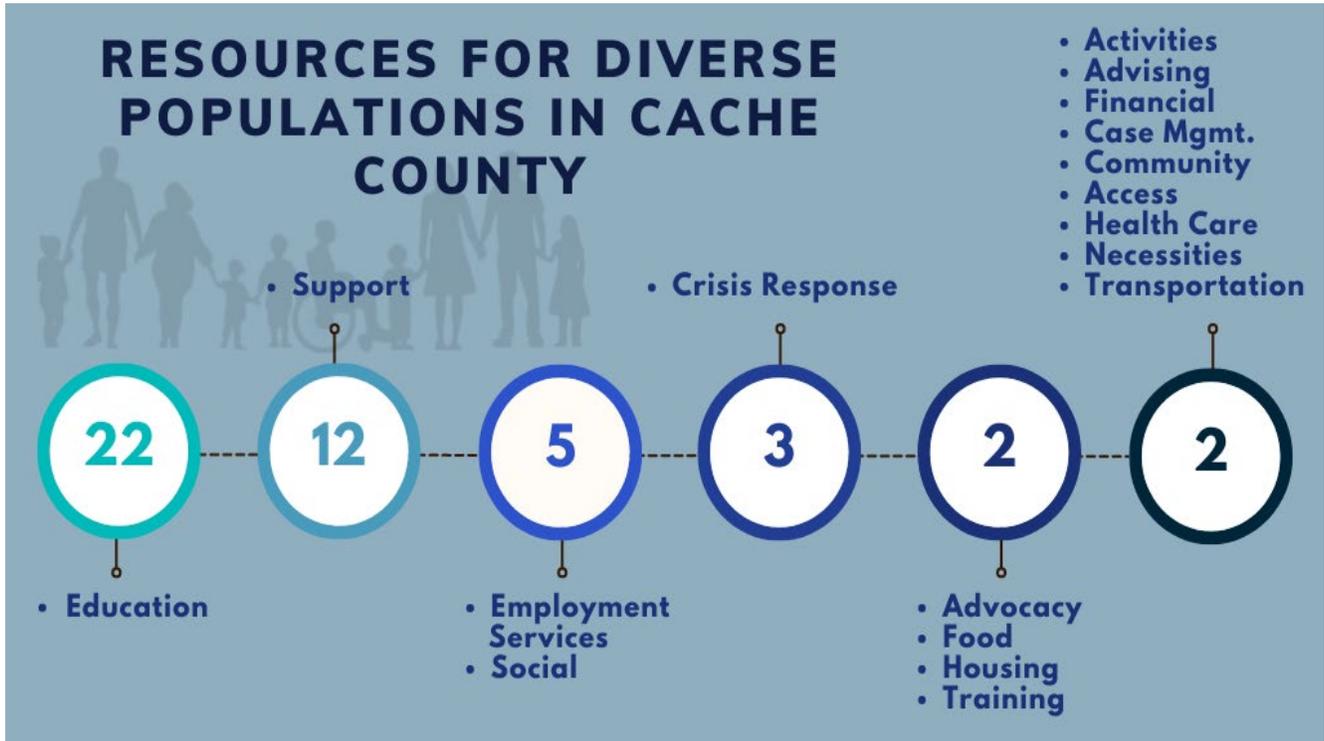
These services include free mental health appointments, free or low-cost health clinics, and access to lawyers who specialize in immigration issues.



Five organizations focus on promoting education and successful day-to-day living for individuals with mental or physical disabilities. USU’s Institute for Disability Research Policy & Practice is home to Stride Services, which “provides services to youth and adults with developmental disabilities living in Cache Valley and southern Idaho.”<sup>3</sup> This includes helping participants find employment in “competitive integrated settings.”<sup>3</sup> Top Sports provides recreation skill camps where children and youth with disabilities living in Cache County area learn the “rules of the games.” Common Ground Outdoor is a nonprofit that creates opportunities for disabled individuals to enjoy outdoor activities like cycling, canoeing, rock climbing, skiing, and yoga. Aggies Elevated is a USU college program for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities that focuses on five key areas: Lifelong Learning, Independent Living, Community Involvement, Self-Advocacy, and Career Development.<sup>4</sup> Cache Employment & Training Center offers several programs for individuals with mental disabilities such as supported employment, youth and senior day services, and therapy and behavior supports. Bridgerland Literacy is a program sponsored by Bridgerland Technical College and USU’s Center for Persons with Disabilities that provides one-on-one tutoring for English-speaking adults who struggle with reading or writing.

Two organizations are dedicated to helping LGBTQIA+ residents of Cache County. The Logan Pride Foundation is located in a converted home in downtown Logan. They offer weekly gatherings such as Gaymer Group, Yoga, Brown Bag Lunch, and various support groups. The Logan Pride Foundation also organizes the yearly Pride Festival held at Willow Park in Logan. The Cache Pride Center offer a variety of services such as assistance in finding physical and mental health professionals, hosting support groups for youth, food, clothing, hygiene products, and temporary housing. Last, the USU Inclusion Center provides services for several minority populations such as LGBTQIA+ students, indigenous students, multicultural and neurodivergent students. The USU Inclusion Center provides a supportive atmosphere and “facilitate(s) opportunities for learning and activism to support and empower all individuals in building an inclusive and compassionate society.”<sup>5</sup> ([Please scan QR code or this link to access a map of these services.](#))

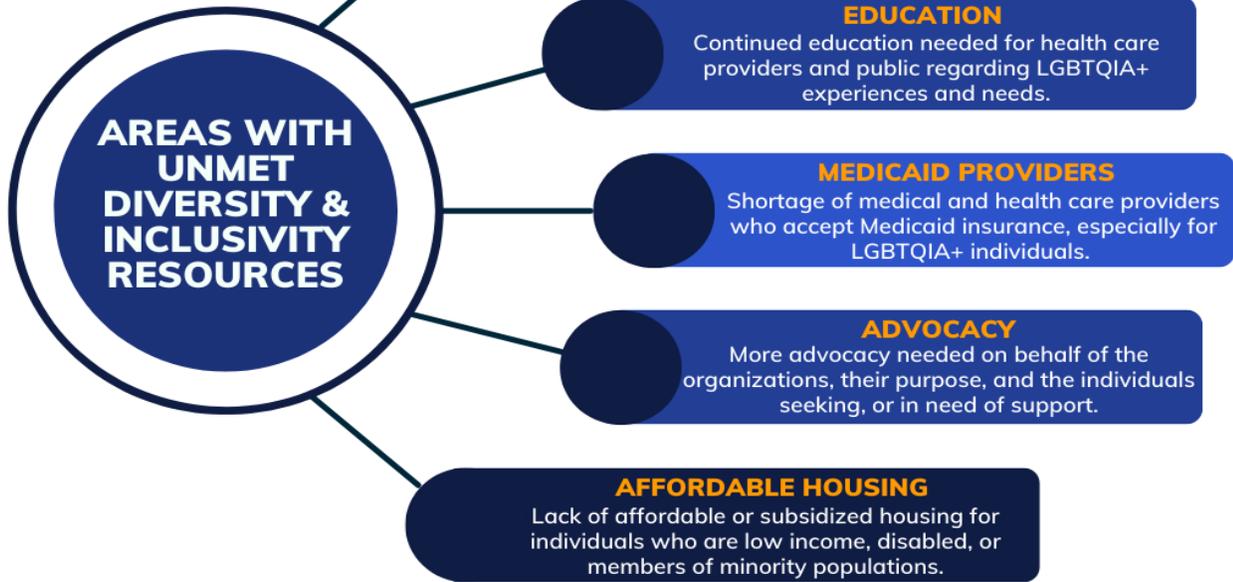




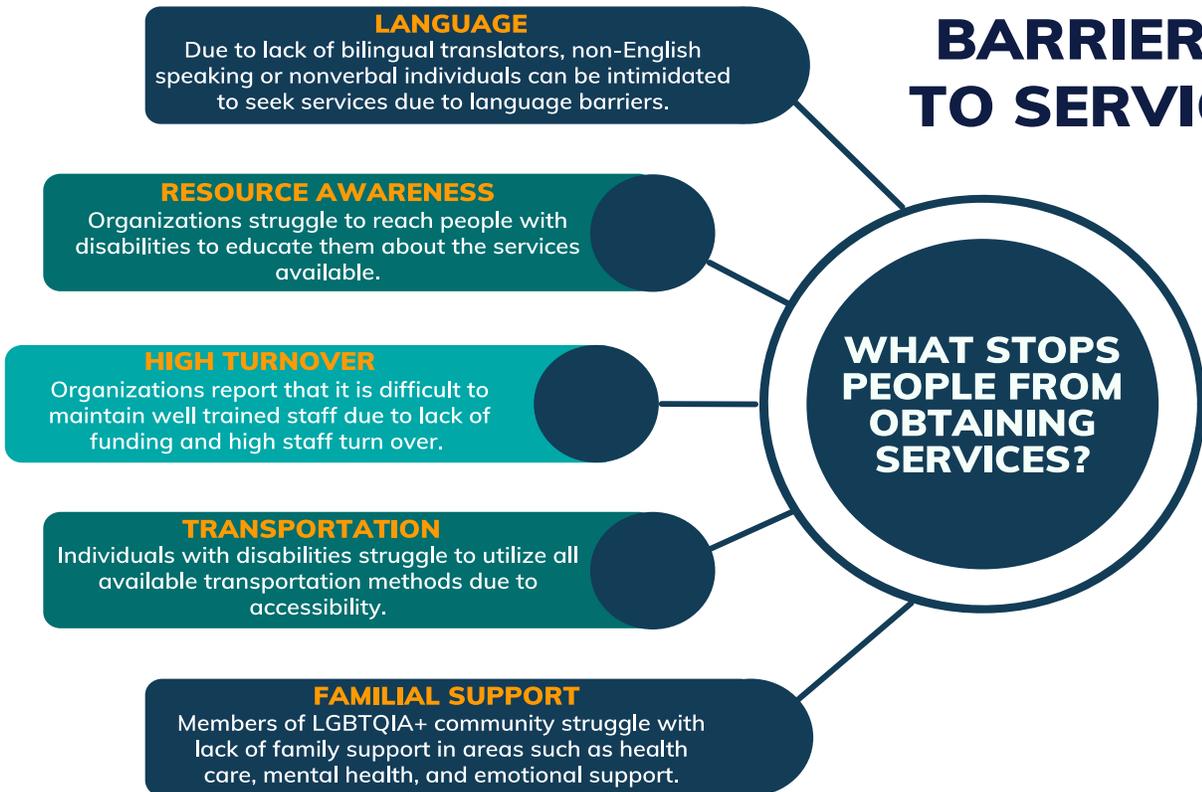
**Summary of Additional Services Available in Priority Area**

Six of 15 organizations offer services that fall outside of the scope of their stated missions. Top Sports offers resources to assist parents of clients with effective budget planning and employment assistance. Common Ground Outdoor provides transportation to activities and meals for participants. Aggies Elevated can assist clients in obtaining outside job placement. Cache Employment and Training Center connects clients to community resources and apply for disability services, Medicaid, SSI and other programs. The Cache Pride Center offers school tutoring, and access to food, clothing, and hygiene items for youth who use the center. The Cache Pride Center also aids in accessing affirming health care, mental health care, and suicide prevention. The USU Inclusion Center offers their clients advising and various emergency services.

## GAPS IN SERVICE



## BARRIERS TO SERVICE



## Recommendations

- Conduct further research into gaps, barriers, and impacts of services that create an inclusive, supportive environment, particularly for populations with higher rates of poverty
- Develop and implement an education/awareness campaign for available services and allies for refugees and immigrants
- Develop and implement a public campaign for creating an inclusive, welcoming community
- Create a directory of all minority focused organizations to encourage collaboration
- Facilitate strategy and planning sessions to enhance collaboration between agencies to ensure efficient and effective service delivery to minority populations in Cache County

To read the other reports from Cache County Human Services Assessment, please visit:  
[https://bit.ly/NSSNC\\_22](https://bit.ly/NSSNC_22)

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