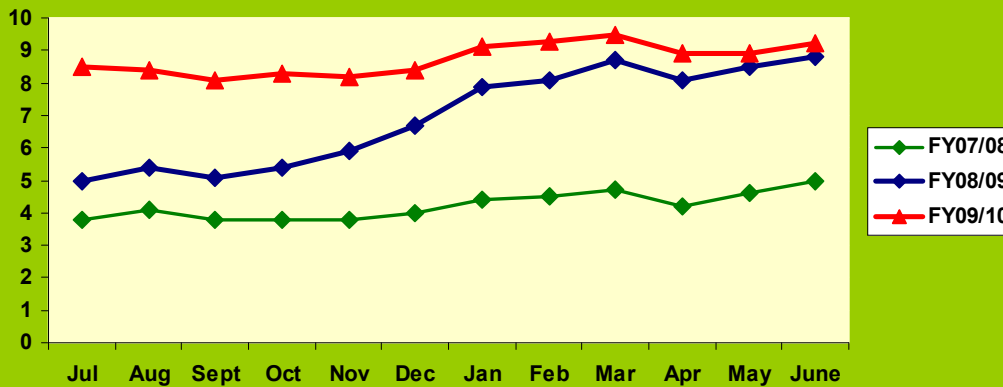


Many Households Still Waiting for Economic "Recovery"

Although the country has "officially" emerged from the most recent recession, the lingering effects of high unemployment continue to plague many central Indiana households. According to a July 25, 2010 *Indianapolis Star* article, "The last downturn of this magnitude – in 1981 and 1982 – at its peak left 329,846 people jobless in Indiana and a high-water unemployment rate of 12.7 percent. Although the recession officially ended in 1982, the state jobless rate did not fall below 8 percent until spring 1985."

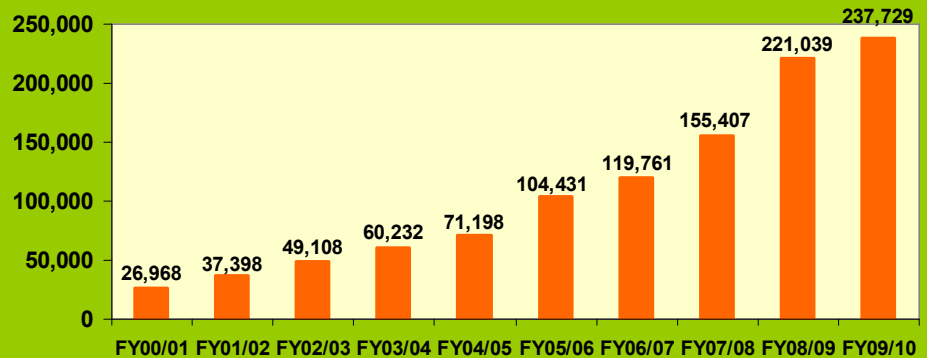
Central Indiana Unemployment Rates Comparison



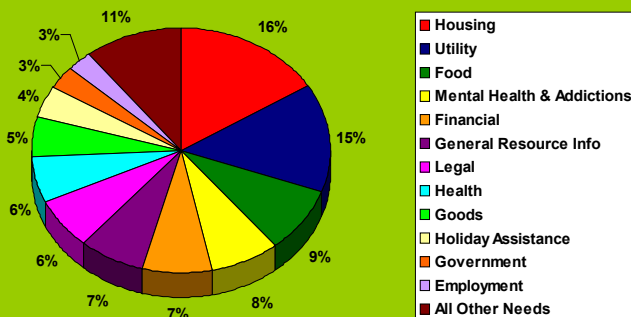
- Unemployment data from STATSIndiana suggest a similar trend of a slow job recovery for the Central Indiana area.
- Data from Connect2Help also reveal that many in the area are struggling financially. **Nearly 1 in 5 callers (18%) reported that at least one household member was unemployed** during fiscal year 2009/2010.

- Calls for help from area residents continue to increase. After a **staggering 42% rise in calls in FY08/09**, when the recession was at its peak, calls continued to climb in FY09/10.
- Outcome survey data from FY09/10 indicate that **49% of these callers were people calling Connect2Help for the first time**. Many of them were newly unemployed and unfamiliar with community resources and how to obtain them.

Answered Calls - FY00/01 through FY09/10



Needs By Major Categories - FY09/10



- People calling C2H were most concerned with meeting basic needs: **paying their rent or mortgage, keeping utilities connected and providing food for their families**.
- To help meet these needs, a group of community funders created the **Community Economic Relief Fund** late in 2008. The infusion of CERF funds has contributed to a **dramatic drop in the percentage of "unmet" rent/mortgage and utility needs** – from 39% and 41%, respectively in FY08/09, to 12% and 9% in FY09/10.
- The gap in resources to meet needs has certainly been narrowed by these funds; however, because so many people need help, demand has simply outpaced supply. According to C2H data, the top **"unmet" community needs** were **rent/mortgage help, utility assistance, shelter and food pantry assistance**.