

# Community Needs

## Assessment

Conditions of Poverty  
2019 Status Report



**WRIGHT  
COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
ACTION**

Board Approved  
August 14, 2018

Updated  
July 2019

This project was funded in part by the  
Initiative Foundation, a regional foundation.

# Table of Contents:

Introduction .....	3
Methodology .....	4
County Demographics .....	5
Poverty Statistics .....	6
Service Area Data .....	7
Income .....	8
Housing .....	10
Community Involvement .....	12
Education .....	13
Early Childhood .....	14
Child Care .....	15
Health & Nutrition .....	16
Employment .....	18
Transportation .....	19
Community Strengths .....	Back Cover

## About Our Organization

Wright County Community Action (WCCA) was founded in 1965 to serve the community and to fight and prevent poverty on a variety of fronts. WCCA is a private non-profit corporation and the designated Community Action Agency serving residents of Wright County. WCCA strives to address poverty and community development with a multifaceted approach that individually confronts each challenge families in poverty face. Over the course of our 53 years in this community, WCCA has grown from a small organization serving hundreds of people to a large agency serving thousands through several highly successful programs and services that promote economic independence for people with low incomes. The programs and services operated by WCCA address key elements of life and the accompanying economic choices and issues that shape families, individuals, and the community.

The WCCA Head Start Program has been operating in Wright County since 1965. In 1984, WCCA received funding to provide services to 20 children in Western Hennepin County. In 1989, the Region V Federal Head Start Office created official service area boundaries which included all of Wright County and 18 Western Hennepin County communities.

# Introduction

Wright County Community Action (WCCA) completed a comprehensive community assessment to reflect the lives of our neighbors experiencing poverty within our own community. The assessment is part of a federal mandate, intended to assess and subsequently respond to, the unique needs of the area they serve. The Community Assessment will act as a planning tool for staff, policy council, and board members to use for program management. This assessment meets the Federal Head Start Program Performance Standards as described in 45CFR 1302.11. Annual updates will be made in compliance with the same Performance Standards.

In 2018, WCCA adjusted the assessment strategy to increase the value of the data collected when compared year over year. With an essentially blank slate, the WCCA Assessment was divided into eight categories:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Employment
- Community Involvement
- Education & Childcare
- Income & Asset Building
- Health & Nutrition
- Demographics

## Goals & Objectives



Gain community input regarding community needs and interests



Educate and inform community partners and stakeholders



Allow our clients to guide and shape the direction of the organization

## Supplemental Documentation

In addition to this booklet, three supplemental documents are available for a deeper understanding of our community. This supplement includes census-level data, a summary of the WCCA survey results, a directory of area resources, and all annual update data. These supplemental documents are available at [www.wccaweb.com/ca](http://www.wccaweb.com/ca)

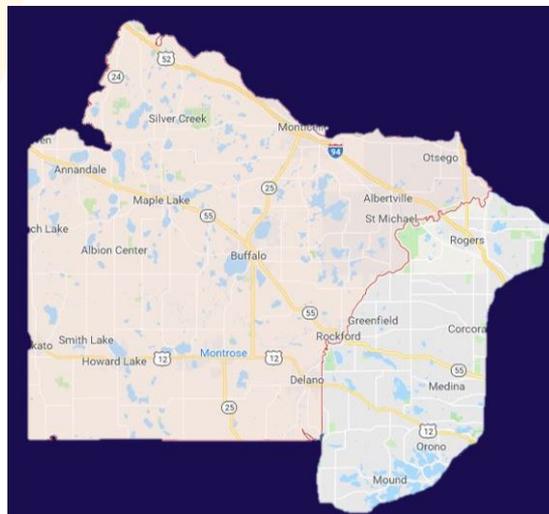
## Service Area

We serve Wright County and our Head Start program also serves western Hennepin County.

**Main Office Location**  
Maple Lake

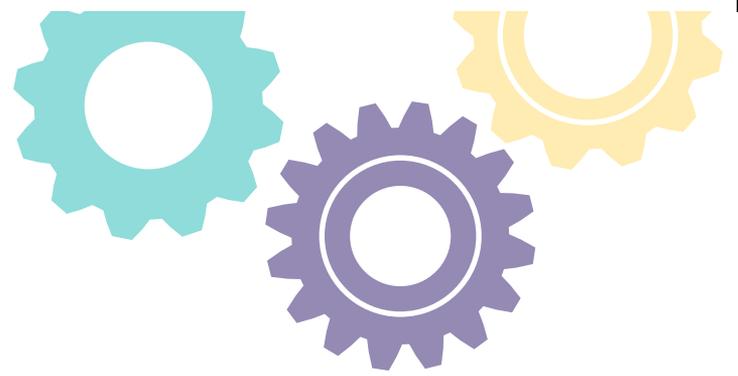
**Food Shelf & Thrift Shop**  
Waverly

**WIC Clinics**  
Buffalo  
Howard Lake  
Monticello



### Head Start Locations

Annandale  
Buffalo  
Delano  
Howard Lake  
Monticello  
Montrose  
Mound  
Rogers



# Methodology

## Collaboration

One of the greatest assets available to WCCA is our network of community stakeholders. We engaged this knowledgeable group of partners in two specialized workshops. The first workshop developed specific indicators that reflect life in Wright County. Our team used the information gathered in this workshop to build the questions in our survey as well to guide research. The second workshop was completed after the survey data was received to help draw conclusions. These collaborative efforts ensured that we assessed areas of poverty objectively.

## Research

Research was conducted over a twelve-week period. Questions were initially gathered by examining prior agency community assessments and then further developed intra-office. Collection was kept open to any pertinent questions that arose while researching in order to build on substance. Data was provided by county, state, federal and private organizations and screened to ensure current, fair and accurate representations. Data was then filed by category and included notes, sourcing, and labels before a final assessment for relevancy to our survey. The majority of the data was provided by the United States Census Bureau and the State of Minnesota. In all, data was included from one county, six state, three federal and five privately-owned sources. All research was conducted via internet.

On an annual basis, WCCA will update data on key measures and outcomes and reflect significant changes in the community. This new information will be added to the supplemental data on [www.wccaweb.com/ca](http://www.wccaweb.com/ca). These indicators may include the availability of publicly-funded pre-kindergaren, the rates of family and child homelessness, and significant shifts in the community demographics and resources.

## Survey

### Development

The assessment team used the indicators that were identified during our collaborative workshop to form questions. Response options were presented with the positive answers first. The entire survey was written at a 5th-grade reading level. After a paper version of the survey was finalized, IT support built an online survey using QuestionPro.com.

### Distribution

All residents of our service area were encouraged to take the survey regardless of their age, gender, race, ethnicity, income level or any other demographic indicator. Approximately 2,500 pieces of paper were distributed to promote participation.



**731** Paper Copies Mailed



**750** Postcards promoting online participation



**425** Reminder postcards



**600** hand out through partners or events



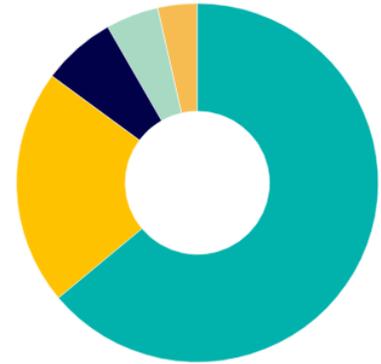
## Incentive

Through a grant received by the Initiative Foundation, we were able to offer four \$50 gift cards to participants. Throughout the survey period, we selected one participant who entered the drawing at the end of the survey.

## Response Rate

# 20.3%

Online Participation	63.9%
Mail Responses (Paper)	21.2%
Staff (paper)	6.6%
Events (paper)	4.7%
Partners (paper)	3.5%



## Wright County Demographics

POPULATION  
**134,365**  
+7,232 SINCE 2012



**35.8** median age

**\$75,705** median household income

**7,060** Veterans

## Ethnicity and Race

The ethnic composition of the population of Wright County, MN is composed of 120,966 White residents (93.1%), 3,502 Hispanic residents (2.7%), 2,089 Two+ residents (1.61%), 1,480 Black residents (1.14%), and 1,409 Asian residents (1.08%).

## Languages

The most common foreign languages in Wright County are Spanish (2,546 speakers), German (504 speakers), and Russian (316 speakers). Wright County also has a relatively high number of Laotian (306 speakers).

## Teen Birth Rate

The Wright County 2018 teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-19) was 12.3. This is down from 2014 when the birth rate was 20.1. The national birth rate in 2016 was 20.3.

## Agency Demographics

The Agency Wide Demographics report will be supplied for the calendar year within the supplemental data found on [www.wccaweb.com/ca](http://www.wccaweb.com/ca)

Data Sources: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

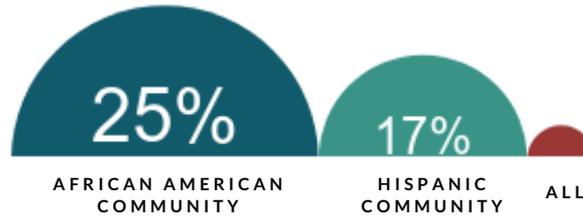
# Poverty in Wright County

5.5% OF WRIGHT COUNTY OR

# 7,150

PEOPLE LIVE IN POVERTY

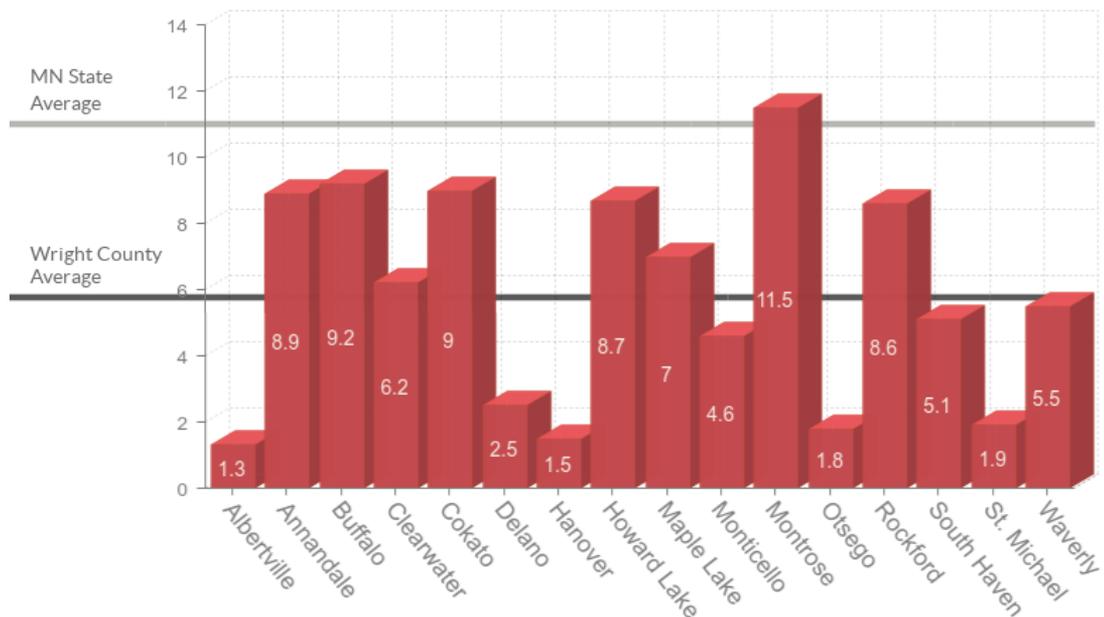
## Poverty Rate by Ethnicity & Race



## Poverty Rate By City

Wright County is proud of the dynamic opportunities it offers. From small towns to bustling cities, agriculture to industry and so much more. However, the poverty rate is one dynamic dataset that is difficult to be proud of.

At the county level, the average is a respectable 5.6%, almost half of the state average (10.8%). However, in alignment with other characteristics, the poverty rate varies drastically depending on the zip code. The chart below illustrates how each city measures up.



## Poverty Rate by Family Type

Of the households in poverty, female-headed households represented 46.6% of all households, compared to married couples (45.1%) and households headed by males (8.3%)

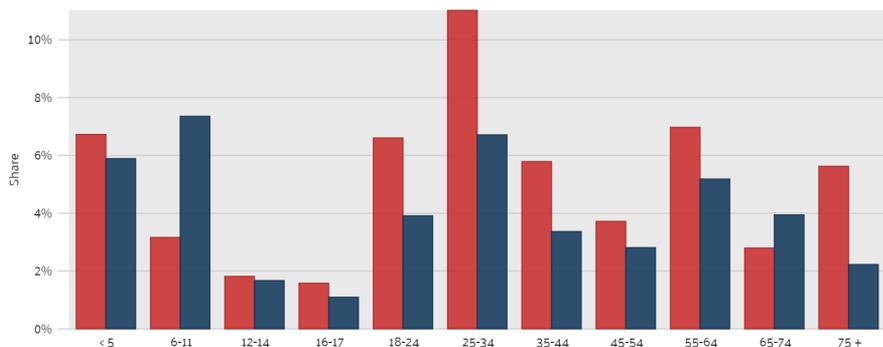
# 2,910

HOUSEHOLDS LIVE IN POVERTY

## Poverty Rate by Age

1,014 SENIORS

2,626 CHILDREN UNDER 18



Data Sources: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Approach to Serving the County

To ensure we serve our entire county, we utilize our major roadways to define corridors. Each of these corridors presents unique traits.



Cities Include: Clearwater, Monticello, Albertville, St. Michael, Otsego & Hanover  
Also Serving the Hennepin County Cities of: Dayton & Rogers



**4.04%**

Of children under 5 are living in poverty.

**315**

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Head Start supports 75 of the children in this area through six-hour programming

**3.61%**

Of Seniors over 65 are living in poverty.



Our Mobile Food Shelf is seeking partnerships to serve this area.



Cities Include: Annandale, Maple Lake, South Haven, Buffalo and Rockford  
Also serving the Hennepin County Cities of: Corcoran & Greenfield



**15.1%**

Of children under 5 are living in poverty.

**502**

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Head Start supports 65 children of this area by offering both six-hour and four-hour programming

**9.88%**

Of Seniors over 65 are living in poverty.



Our Mobile Food Shelf delivers groceries to seniors living in Maple Lake



Cities Include: Cokato, Howard Lake, Waverly, Montrose, Delano  
Also serving the Hennepin County Cities of: Independence, Maple Plaine, Long Lake, Orono, Mound, Spring Park and St. Bonifaious



**6.12%**

Of children under 5 are living in poverty.

**213**

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Head Start supports 60 children of this area by offering six-hour programming

**8.05%**

Of Seniors over 65 are living in poverty.



Our Mobile Food Shelf delivers groceries to seniors living in Delano and Montrose

Data Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

THE COST OF LIVING

**\$55,626**

**FOR A SINGLE PARENT WITH ONE CHILD**

*Data Source: 2018 MN Employment and Economic Development Cost of Living Calculator.*

**BUT HOW MUCH CAN YOU REALLY MAKE?**

The information provided below outlines the average annual salary when working minimum wage and in the top 3 industries in Wright County.

**\$16,369**

Minimum Wage

**\$38,110**

Administrative

**\$28,731**

Retail & Sales

**\$102,797**

Management



## Income

According to 2010 Census data, Wright County was ranked 7th for highest median income out of the 87 counties in Minnesota. In the 2016 American Community Survey, the median income reached \$75,705.00 in Wright County. Upon closer inspection of the data, the Hanover area reached the highest at \$95,950 while the lowest area was recorded in Annandale with a median income of only \$53,447.

## Federal Poverty Guidelines

### ANNUAL INCOME LIMITS

Household Size	Annual Income Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	125% FPL	150% FPL	175%FPL	200% FPL	250% FPL
1	\$12,490	\$15,612.50	\$18,735.0	\$21,857.50	\$24,980	\$31,225.0
2	\$16,910	\$21,137.50	\$25,365.0	\$29,592.50	\$33,820	\$42,275.0
3	\$21,330	\$26,662.50	\$31,995.0	\$37,327.50	\$42,660	\$53,325.0
4	\$25,750	\$32,187.50	\$38,625.0	\$45,062.50	\$51,500	\$64,375.0
5	\$30,170	\$37,712.50	\$45,255.0	\$52,797.50	\$60,340	\$75,425.0
6	\$34,590	\$43,237.50	\$51,885.0	\$60,532.50	\$69,180	\$86,475.0
7	\$39,010	\$48,762.50	\$58,515.0	\$68,267.50	\$78,020	\$97,525.0
8	\$43,430	\$54,287.50	\$65,145.0	\$76,002.50	\$86,860	\$108,575.0
9	\$47,850	\$59,812.50	\$71,775.0	\$83,737.50	\$95,700	\$119,625.0
10	\$52,270	\$65,337.50	\$78,405.0	\$91,472.50	\$104,540	\$130,675.0

## What is considered 'Low-Income'?

While Wright County has a poverty rate of 5.56%, only individuals who live with a household income less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) listed above are included in that rate. Households who have an income of 100-200% of the FPL are considered Low-Income. 21,920 individuals in Wright county live with a household income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Furthermore, as illustrated on the left, the cost of living is very difficult to reach. A single parent working an administrative job does not meet the calculated cost of living, but also makes enough money to be considered over 200% of the FPL. This limits the availability of assistance as indicated below.

## Qualifying for Assistance

Category	Program Name	% of the Federal Poverty Level
<b>Food &amp; Nutrition</b>	SNAP (fka Food Stamps)	As High as 165%
<b>Health Insurance</b>	Medical Assistance	As high as 283%
<b>Health Insurance</b>	MinnesotaCare	200%
<b>General Assistance</b>	MFIP	115%

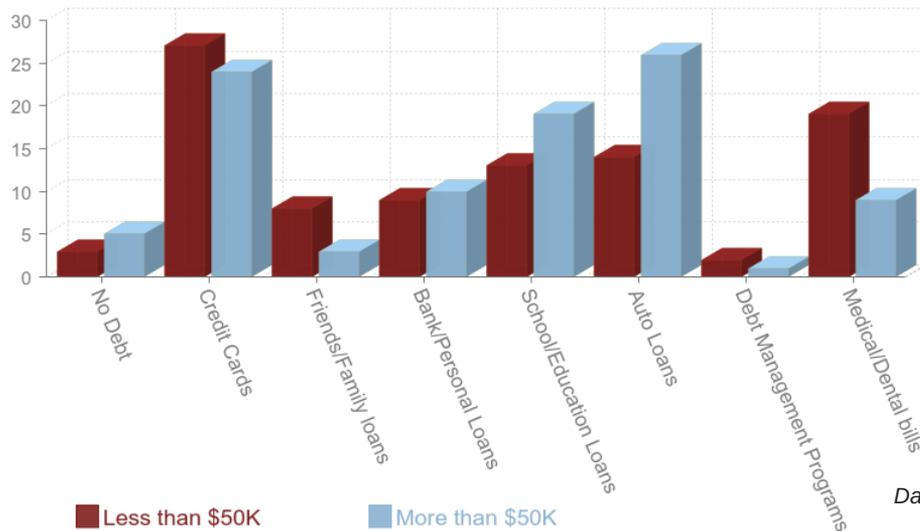
The information provided in this assessment is not able to determine the eligibility of any program mentioned. In order to see if you qualify, please contact the program administrator.

## Savings

73.5% of all survey respondents do not have 3 months of income saved for emergencies. This number grew to 88% when looking at respondents who have a household income of less than \$50,000. Furthermore, among respondents over the age of 65, the percentage who do not have at least 3 months of income in savings was measured at 64.7%.

Data Source: 2018 WCCA Survey of Residents

## Debt Trends



# 32.4%

Of survey respondents have debt that totals more than 30% of their income (not including mortgage)

Data Source: 2018 WCCA Survey of Residents

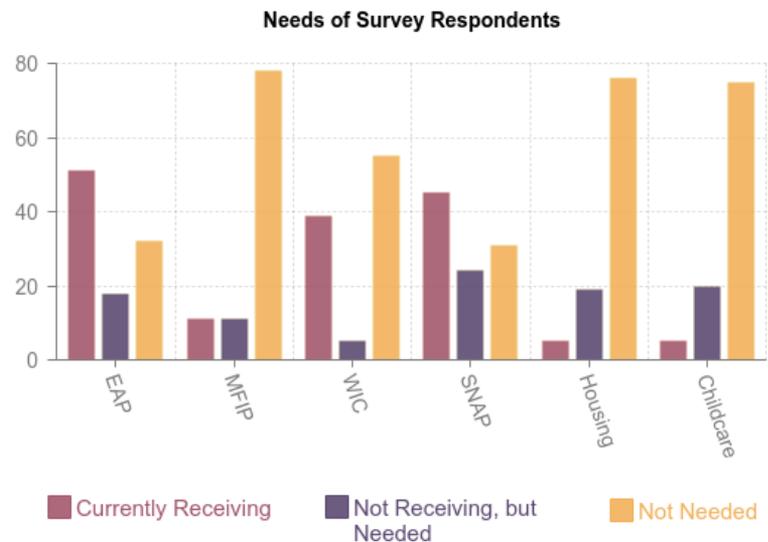
While this graph doesn't outline the amount of debt in each category, it does show us where the individuals have debt clusters. The increase in Friends/Family loans could possibly be connected to the difficulty that low-income individuals have in being approved for bank loans. This could be a result of not having enough income or having a low credit score. We would like to call specific attention to the disparity of Medical/Dental Bills. One contribution to this is the perception that these types of debts can be ignored without penalty.

Another reality is that while programs such as MNCare and Medical Assistance are available, those who don't qualify will oftentimes opt to not have insurance due to the increase in premiums or high deductibles.

## Status of Assistance

The information to the right shows the responses from households with an income of less than \$50,000 per year. While the survey was open to all Wright County residents, WCCA clients received letters and were encouraged to take the survey by our staff. This may explain why EAP and WIC have higher results of currently receiving. While not all respondents may qualify for the programs they are interested in, this data shows the opportunities for additional outreach.

Data Source: 2018 WCCA Survey of Residents



# Housing

## Market Update

**15.3%**  
**OF HOMEOWNERS  
HAVE NEGATIVE  
EQUITY**

When reviewing the supplemental documents, Wright County housing market appears to be doing very well. There is a high rate of home ownership, the median age of homes is only 23 years, and the rate of unsanitary homes is lower than all state and national averages. However, not all aspects are thriving. As of March 2016, 15.3%\* of Wright County homes have negative equity, which is well above the Twin Cities Metro (7.2%\*) and national (10.4%\*) averages. 1.2%\* are delinquent on their mortgage, which is the first step toward foreclosure. We also need to specifically look at the availability of affordable housing. The price per square foot reached \$200, which is above the Twin Cities Metro (\$197). For households making less than \$50,000 per year, finding housing options is incredibly limited, with only 13^ rental options and 59^ purchase options under 30% of their income.

*\*Zillow Real Estate Health County Market Health Report  
^ Markets assessed as a point of time count on July 25, 2018*

## Foreclosure

Foreclosure rates have significantly improved over the last 10 years, from a peak of 22.31%\* in May 2009, down to an astounding .04%\* in June 2018. Property values climbed 1.07%\* from May 2017 to June 2018.

*\*Zillow Real Estate Health County Market Health Report*

## Subsidized Housing

**12 SUBSIDIZED LOCATIONS  
WITH ENOUGH UNITS TO  
SUPPORT 13.9% OF  
LOW-INCOME FAMILIES**

At this time, the waitlist for the voucher program is closed. When this program is open, the waitlist process can take many months to process. HRA Section 8 vouchers can be used with any landlord who will accept them. However, the 12 locations that are specific to low-income housing, only offer 405 units and have an occupancy rate of 92%. With 2,910 households living in poverty, our subsidized housing is available to only 13.9%.

## Senior Housing

The biggest concern identified during this assessment is the complexity to navigate the system. Other communities offer a comprehensive network of senior services to alleviate the burden families and individuals face when needing to move seniors into an appropriate housing situation. This resource is particularly beneficial for out-of-area family members to know where to turn when making decisions concerning their aging adult loved ones. There are no plans to add more nursing facilities in the area.

**14,000 SENIOR CITIZENS**  
**11 ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES**  
**7 NURSING FACILITIES**

## Expense Burdens

In the WCCA Survey, we asked respondents to indicate how often they struggle with various concerns regarding housing. After analyzing the responses from households with an income less than \$50,000 per year, we sorted them into the prioritized list below. For detailed information regarding the survey responses, please see the supplemental documents.

- 1** MAKING UTILITY PAYMENTS
- 2** KEEPING YOUR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENT
- 3** HOME REPAIR COSTS
- 4** FINDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS
- 5** FINDING HOUSING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOU WANT
- 6** FUNDING HOUSING LARGE ENOUGH
- 7** HAVING A CRIMINAL HISTORY

Data Source: 2018 WCCA Survey of Residents

## Homelessness

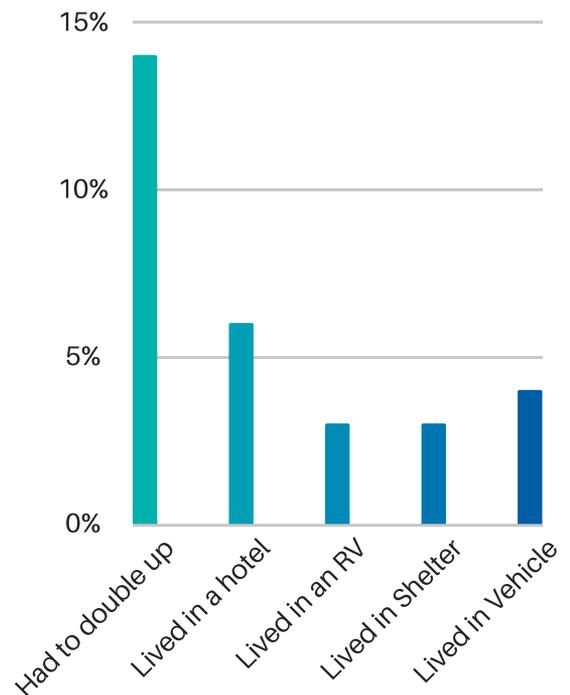
During the Community Stakeholders workshop, we discussed the complexities of defining homelessness. There is more than one “official” definition of homelessness depending on the agency, program, or funding source. An individual/family that qualifies as homeless for one program may find that they do not qualify according to the next program. These differences make it difficult to identify the prevalence of homelessness in our area. Wright County does participate in the Point-in-Time survey which does offer some insight.

In our WCCA Survey, we used the McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless as this is how we determined eligibility for Head Start programming. Among respondents with a household income of less than \$50,000, we found that 20% have needed to or currently are 'double up' with friends or family in the past year.

Increased population has caused a shortage of affordable housing, placing low-income residents at risk of becoming homeless. Because of this lack of affordable housing, there has been a large number of residents “doubling-up”. Doubling-up also occurs because of deposits that must be made when moving into a new apartment. Many apartments require an application fee, first and last month’s rent along with a damage deposit equal to one month’s rent. In addition, many of the utility companies such as phone, heat, electric and cable are currently requiring a deposit prior to connecting their services. Low-income people do not have the money to pay for all of the deposits, again making them imminently homeless.

*Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act at 42 U.S.C. 11434a (2).*

**IN THE 15-16 SCHOOL YEAR, WRIGHT COUNTY REPORTED 145 HOMELESS STUDENTS**



**THERE ARE NO SHELTERS LOCATED IN WRIGHT COUNTY**

Data Source: 2018 WCCA Survey of Residents



### Did you know?

When Wright County residents were asked this question, households who make less than \$50K per year were

**5% more likely to feel uncomfortable**  
in their own community.

## Volunteerism

**24.9%**    **35.9%**

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



WCCA Survey



## Park Access

The percentage of population who has access to a park within a half mile of home.

- Hwy 55:** 51.5%
- I-94:** 31.2%
- Hwy 12:** 20.6%

## Screen Time

In the State of Minnesota, **66.95%** of children ages 6-17, spend more than 2 hours in front of a TV.

# Community Involvement

When assessing this broad category, this assessment focused on the way Wright County residents connect with the community. The assessed areas reviewed trends in volunteerism, participation in public forums, voting, parks/trails access and general levels of comfort.

WCCA Survey participants had the opportunity to share what they considered the strengths of their community. This information was collected to make a word cloud that highlights the most common words used. This word cloud can be found on the back cover of this assessment.

## Community Stakeholder Discussion

The survey identified that households making less than \$50,000 per year are 5% more likely to feel uncomfortable having close relationships in their community and 4% more likely to feel like they are not a part of the community. During the Community Stakeholders Input Meeting, participants identified the following possible reasons why:

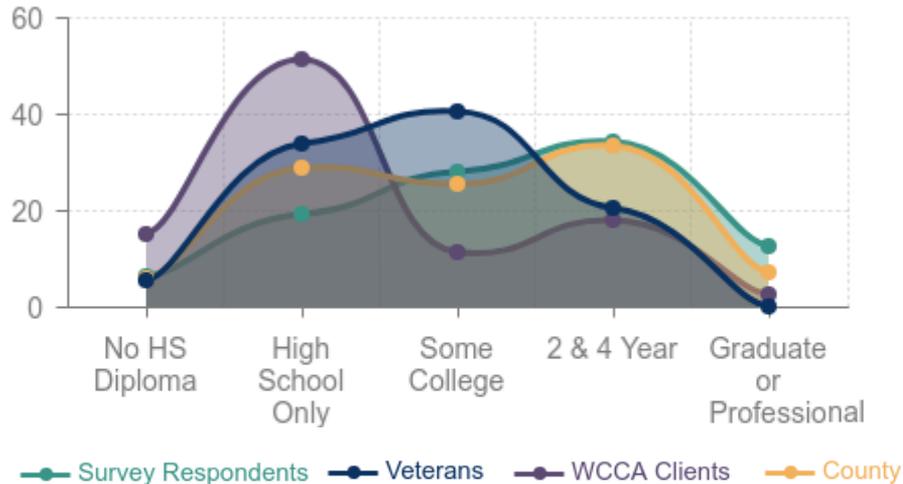
- Wright County has numerous cities that identify as 'bedroom communities'.
- Often times, people who struggle financially live transient lives- they gravitate toward lower rent options and don't set roots in a community where they won't stay long. This is more frequent in Wright County due to the close proximity to the Twin Cities Metro.
- People living in low-income situations tend to have lower self-esteem. This could stem from society's value of money and status as well as mental health issues caused by adverse experiences.
- Wright County takes pride in the strength of the multiple festivals and city celebrations. While many offer parades or music as a form of free entertainment, many events/activities come with a cost or an expectation of shopping. In general, communities don't offer a wide variety of free events. The few free events that are available are very limited during the colder months (October-April).
- Individuals holding low-income jobs are more likely to require more than one job to meet the cost of living. This greatly reduces the amount of time available for community involvement and self-care.

After continued diving into the reasons above, the group of community stakeholders found that while Wright County offers support services, there is a lack of a coordinated support system to effectively serve these individuals.

# Education

## Attainment

WCCA Client data was pulled from our client information system and compared to the data pulled from the US Census Bureau.



Of WCCA Client households who have one or more individuals without a High School Diploma, 21.5% show generational relationships between the individuals (parent/child/etc.).

54% of survey respondents indicated that they have reached their educational goal. Of the 22 individuals currently attending school:

**18%** working toward a high school diploma

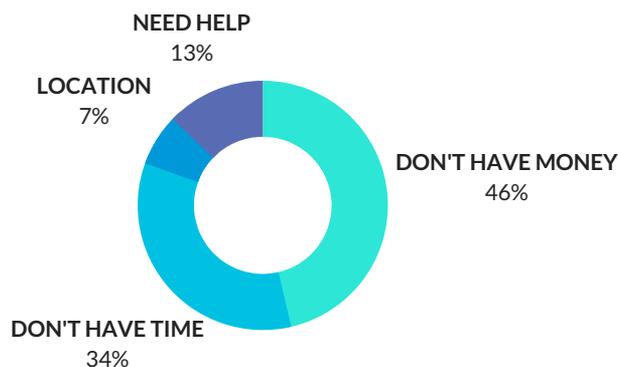
**23%** working toward a certificate or associates degree

**32%** working toward a bachelor's degree

**27%** working toward a master's degree

## Higher Education Barriers

164 survey respondents indicated that they have not met their educational goal, and are not able to pursue higher education.



## 3rd Grade Reading Levels

Overall, Wright County was ranked 4th in the state during in 3rd grade reading scores. This is a ranked list of Wright County School districts and the total percentages of children achieved the MN reading standard during the 2018-2019 School Year.

<b>STMA</b>	<b>79.2%</b>
<b>Delano</b>	<b>75.3%</b>
<b>Dassel-Cokato</b>	<b>70.9%</b>
<b>Maple Lake</b>	<b>69.0%</b>
<b>Annandale</b>	<b>68.8%</b>
<b>BHM</b>	<b>66.0%</b>
<b>Monticello</b>	<b>65.2%</b>
<b>HLWW</b>	<b>62.2%</b>
<b>Rockford</b>	<b>59.9%</b>
<b>STATE</b>	<b>56.2%</b>

**"A community that focuses on the kids is a community that will THRIVE"**

RESPONDENT FROM DELANO

**"The schools really take a lot of time and care in helping kids to succeed."**

RESPONDENT FROM MAPLE LAKE

# Early Childhood

## Head Start Eligibility

Children from birth to age five, who are from families with incomes below the poverty guidelines, are eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services. Children from homeless families and families receiving public assistance such as TANF or SSI are also eligible. Foster children are eligible regardless of their foster family's income.

Wright County -

### Income Eligible 0-4 year olds

City	Count	% of Peers
Albertville	38	2.59%
Annandale	91	20.22%
Buffalo	269	19.41%
Clearwater	10	3.75%
Cokato	56	15.43%
Delano	0	0.00%
Hanover	0	0.00%
Howard Lake	53	21.47%
Maple Lake	14	5.43%
Monticello	172	11.06%
Montrose	60	13.07%
Rockford	81	17.31%
St. Michael	0	0.00%
Waverly	4	2.20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>9.20%</b>

Hennepin County -

### Income Eligible 0-4 year olds

City	Count	% of Peers
Corcoran	40	8.11%
Crystal Bay	0	0%
Datyon	7	4.64%
Long Lake	0	0%
Loretto	7	4.38%
Maple Plain	20	3.96%
Mound	20	2.97%
Osseo	140	5.60%
Rogers	0	0%
Spring Park	13	21.31%
St. Bonifacius	5	1.45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>3.91%</b>

### Homeless Eligibility

By leveraging our relationships with the Wright County Salvation Army, the PIT survey count, and our internal database. We estimate 6 children under the age of 5 are homeless.

### MFIP/SSI Eligibility

In 2016, there were 199 children ages 0-5 receiving benefits from the MFIP program.

### Foster Care Eligibility

In 2017, Wright County DHS reported 65 children under the age of 5 were in the foster care program.

## Early Childhood Disabilities

The following statistics are from the MN Department of Education, Special Education. They represent an unduplicated child count broke down by district and age.

District	Infants	1-year-olds	2-year-olds	3-year-olds	4-year-olds	5-year-olds	6-year-olds	Total
11	20	80	200	198	271	326	358	1,453
110	1	6	7	14	25	30	35	118
111	2	8	14	13	13	17	28	95
277	0	2	6	16	18	17	17	76
278	2	0	4	3	9	15	13	46
466	1	3	8	12	14	26	21	85
728	19	30	60	60	126	126	118	539
742	8	31	49	53	94	105	113	453
876	0	0	6	8	10	22	23	69
877	5	8	21	24	50	53	56	217
879	0	6	6	2	19	21	25	79
881	1	0	2	9	5	12	12	41
882	2	6	13	17	27	33	37	135
883	0	2	2	6	15	24	17	66
885	3	8	12	18	36	28	34	139
2687	0	4	6	7	1	21	7	46
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>3,657</b>

### Most Common Disabilities in Early Childhood

- 1) Developmental Delay
- 2) Speech/Language Impairment
- 3) Autism Spectrum Disorders
- 4) Hearing Impaired
- 5) Emotional and Behavioral Disorders
- 6) Physical Impaired
- 7) Vision Impaired

# Child Care

## Availability of High Quality Childcare



The definition of high-quality childcare is any provider with a Parent Aware rating of 4 stars or providers with NAEYC or NECPA Accreditation. In the WCCA Survey, 59% of all respondents indicated that finding care for children under the age of 3 was difficult. As expected, higher income respondents ranked it less difficult. However, we saw the same trend in respondents who qualify for Head Start.

### Affordability

77% of the WCCA Survey Respondents find it difficult to afford childcare.

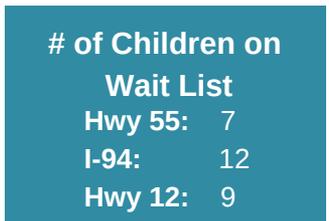
#### Cost of Care

	Center-Based	In-Home
Infant	\$310.00	\$164.00
Toddler	\$268.00	\$156.00
Preschool	\$238.00	\$149.00
School-Age	\$196.00	\$132.00

*\*Childcare Aware Cost of Care - State Wide as of April 2018.*

### Assistance

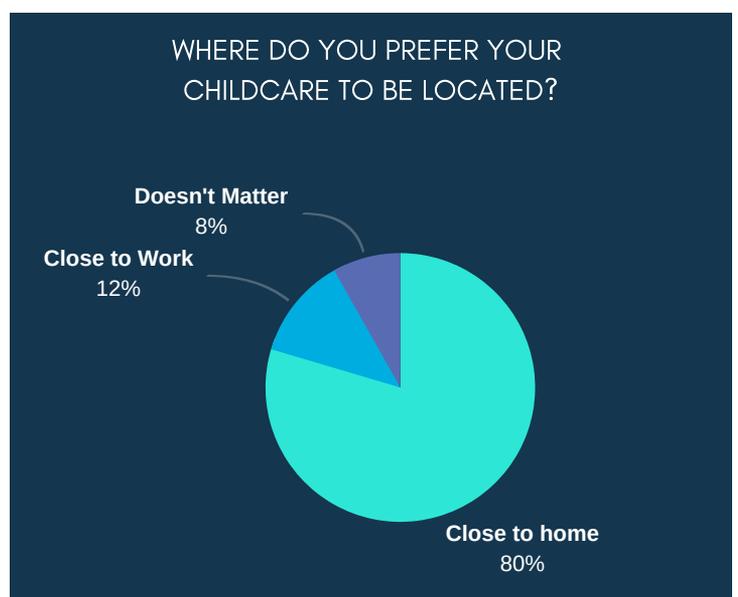
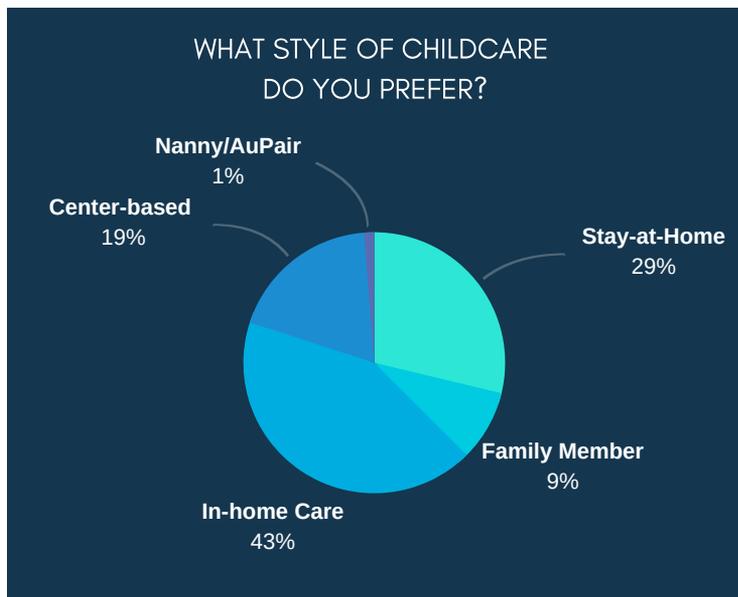
The Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP) is available through the county. The wait list is relatively small with only 26 children on the list as of June 27, 2018.



40.1% of CCAP recipients are children 0-3 years.  
21.6% of CCAP recipients are 4-5 year old children.

### Parent Preference Survey

WCCA conducted an impromptu Childcare Preference Survey using social media in June 2018 to address the gap in information in our main survey. The results indicated below were received from 80 Wright County parents who were pregnant or had children under the age of three.



# Health & Nutrition

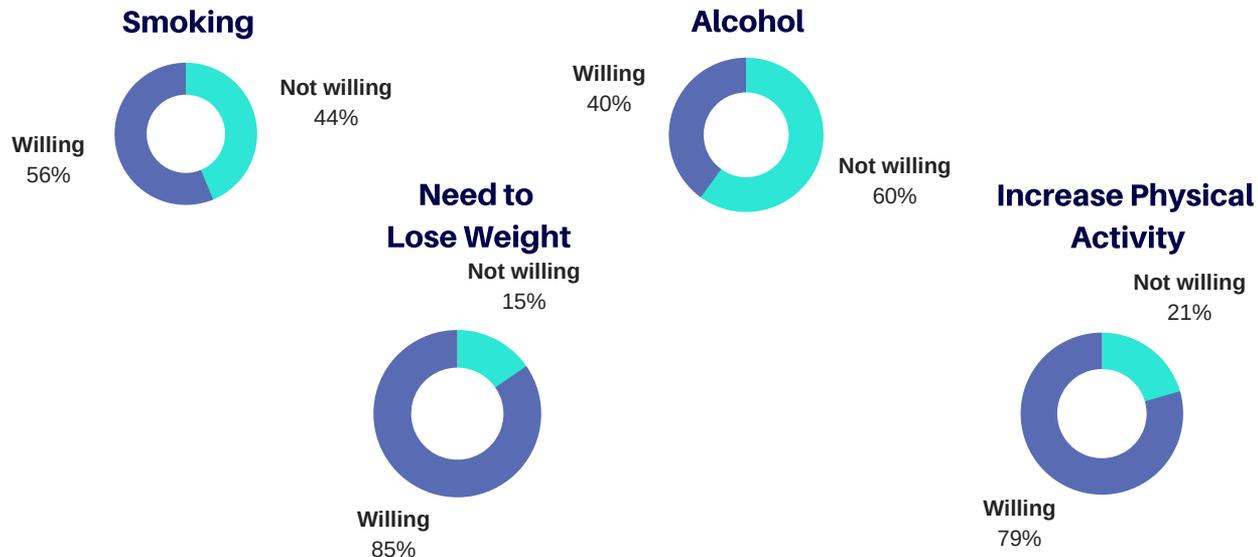
## Where are Low-Income Individuals Receiving Care?

Survey respondents with a household income of less than \$50,000 answered the following.

Health Care		Dental Care		Mental Health Care	
Response	%	Response	%	Response	%
Primary Care Doctor/Clinic	81.7%	My dentist office	62.6%	I don't need any care	39.2%
Urgent Care	7.6%	I don't receive dental care	30.4%	Counseling Center	22.8%
I don't receive Medical Care	5.5%	Other	3.8%	Primary Care Doctor/ Clinic	15.9%
Emergency Room	4.6%	Medical Doctor/Clinic	2.1%	Friends & Family	12.5%
				Church	8.6%

## Willingness to Change

Survey respondents with a household income of less than \$50,000 answered the following:



## Immunizations

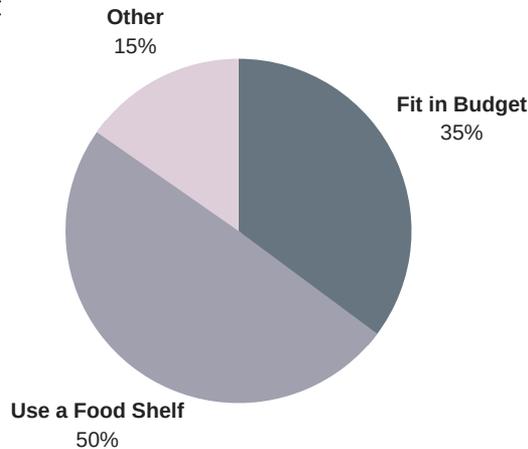
A child-related health concern is receiving proper vaccinations. Since vaccine-preventable diseases are often more serious in young children, increasing these rates are important. To be enrolled in Head Start, children must have at least one shot each of DTP, OPV, MMR, and HIB and schedule a process to get additional shots to become up to date.

County	% Of Children Age 24-35 Months with recommended immunizations									
	Percent of Up to Date - 2016									
	4+ DTaP	3+ polio	1+ MMR	2-4 Hib	3+ Hep B	1+ Varicella	PCV	Rota virus	Hep A	Vaccine Series
STATE	67.7%	80.5%	78.4%	75.3%	78.8%	80.1%	75.1%	67.5%	35%	60.1%
Hennepin	62.1%	73.9%	71.5%	69.6%	71.3%	74.2%	68.2%	62.3%	33.1%	52.8%
Wright	58.8%	71.1%	70.8%	67.3%	68.4%	70.4%	66%	61.3%	51.7%	51.7%

# Health & Nutrition

## Food Shelf Usage

When asked, survey respondents with a household income of less than \$50,000, 50% of respondents indicated using one of the many food shelves available in Wright County. The 'other' category includes fear of the stigma (2.5%), inconvenient hours (1.7%), and feeling that even though they struggle, the food shelf is for 'people who need it more' (7.3%).



The survey also allowed respondents who used a food shelf to rate the performance. Areas of performance included hours of operation, friendliness of staff and volunteers, the selection of produce and protein and more. The results can be viewed in the supplemental documents section of this assessment. The data concluded that while each Wright County food shelves has specific strengths, they ultimately have similar performance ratings.

## Free & Reduced Lunch

The information below lists the 2017-2018 school percentages of students who qualify for the Free & Reduced Lunch Program at each of our county school districts.



<b>Delano</b>	<b>9.40%</b>
<b>STMA</b>	<b>12.40%</b>
<b>Maple Lake</b>	<b>21.60%</b>
<b>Rockford</b>	<b>23.70%</b>
<b>BHM</b>	<b>24.40%</b>
<b>Annandale</b>	<b>25.20%</b>
<b>Monticello</b>	<b>25.50%</b>
<b>Dassel- Cokato</b>	<b>26.40%</b>
<b>HLWW</b>	<b>26.90%</b>

## Wright County Community Health Collaborative

To better understand health issues facing the communities of Wright County, Buffalo Hospital, part of Allina Health, CentraCare Health - Monticello, Wright County Public Health and Wright County Community Action partnered to develop and conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment

After considering input received from community members, community organizations, public health, and hospital/health system staff, the collaborative identified the following priority areas and goals for community health in Wright County.

### Mental Health and Wellness

*Reduce the rate of mental health care delay and the number of "not good" mental health days in Wright County.*

### Dental Care

*Reduce the rate of dental care delay in Wright County.*

### Substance Use and Abuse

*Support local prevention efforts and advocate for policy changes to address substance abuse in Wright County.*

For more information on the Wright County Community Health Collaborate, email [wcca@wccaweb.com](mailto:wcca@wccaweb.com).



## Reasons for Unemployment

The Wright County unemployment rate is very low (2.4%). As employment opportunities is a primary way to increase financial stability, the WCCA Survey asked respondents to indicate the reason they were not currently employed. The list below has removed all retired responses.

<b>Due to a medical condition or disability</b>	37.1%
<b>Unable to afford childcare with the income I would receive</b>	26.7%
<b>Choosing to be a stay-at-home parent</b>	9.5%
<b>No reliable transportation</b>	4.8%
<b>Income would disqualify me from getting help that I rely on</b>	4.8%
<b>Caring for an aging adult</b>	3.8%

*"I am looking for a job that fits my daughters school schedule. She goes to Head Start Monday-Thursday"*

RESPONDENT FROM WAVERLY

# Employment

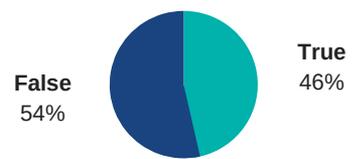
The information below was collected from WCCA survey respondents with a household income of less than \$50,000.

## Job Satisfaction

**I am satisfied with my job and career path**



**My current employer supports career advancement**



At the Community Stakeholders Input Meeting, participants identified four themes to summarize potential reasons the respondents feel unsupported.

### Employer Incentive

- Low unemployment makes it hard to replace
- Higher healthcare costs
- Employers need people to stay in entry level jobs - there is no incentive to promote
- Employers are hesitant to promote parents of young kids or women who may get pregnant

### Education

- Need a degree
- You have to further education first, but don't have the money
- People hit their 'ceiling'
- Changing career fields is scary and challenging

### Opportunity

- There are no real advancements in top industries.
- You can only go so far at some employers
- Large employers hire from outside
- Fewer jobs available at higher levels
- Those with criminal records are not given second chances

### Conflicting Priorities

- Lack of childcare resources make it easy for employers to label someone 'unreliable'
- Don't stay in a job/community long enough
- "It's just a job not a career" mentality
- Working multiple jobs makes commitment and dedication harder
- Unwillingness to advance because it may disqualify for assistance programs

## Typical Schedules

1st Shift



Full time: 42.4%  
Part Time: 22.4%

2nd Shift



Full time: 10.4%  
Part Time: 10.4%

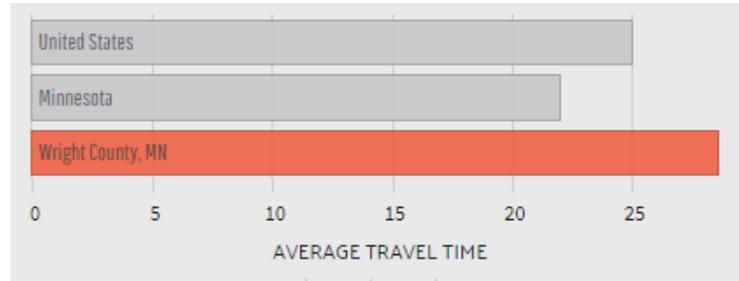
3rd Shift



Full time: 5.6%  
Part Time: 2.4%

# Transportation

Using averages, employees in Wright County, MN have a longer commute time (28.6 minutes) than the normal US worker (25 minutes). Additionally, 2.25% of the workforce in Wright County, MN have "super commutes" in excess of 90 minutes.



Additionally, 83.2% drove alone. During a community stakeholder workshop, this stemmed conversation about increased isolation and distracted driving.

**30%** Of low-income seniors struggle to find a ride

## Expense Burdens

In the WCCA Survey, we asked respondents to indicate how often they struggle with various concerns regarding transportation. After analyzing the responses from households with an income less than \$50,000 per year, we sorted them into the prioritized list below. For detailed information regarding the survey responses, please see the supplemental documents.

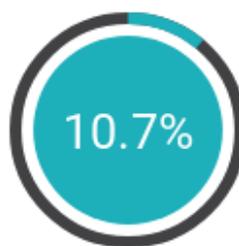
- 1** AFFORDING UNPLANNED REPAIRS
- 2** AFFORDING REGULAR MAINTENANCE
- 3** AFFORDING INSURANCE
- 4** AFFORDING GAS
- 5** FINDING A RIDE TO GO WHERE I NEED TO GO
- 6** SCHEDULING WHO NEEDS OUR CAR
- 7** AFFORDING A DRIVER'S LICENSE

## Distracted Driving

In the WCCA Survey, respondents answered how often they do the following activities.



Admit to Texting while driving



Admit to checking social media while driving



Admit to streaming videos while driving

# WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF YOUR COMMUNITY?

answers from our survey participants

together generation  
atmosphere close-knit children Safe  
Supportive neighbors organizations  
Helpful welcoming Family  
kind caring activities Unity  
trails growth communication dog social lakes  
QUIET proud crime services Clean cooperative  
everything good public yards cities  
Events summer officials amazing library  
senior Opportunities Biking Morals easy music  
shopping Open nice hard streets strong  
involvement **small town** housing  
youth home location neighborhood hall Foodshelves  
resources conservative volunteers Excellent newspaper  
Parks Great businesses county employers willing  
Farmers Education outdoors  
Schools pride chamber inviting love play  
market size downtown  
Churches values firehouse local  
celebrations programs Walking focused People  
connections everyone affordable

**WCCA**

WRIGHT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION



This project was funded in part by the Initiative Foundation, a regional foundation.