

BASIC NEEDS		
Community Level Goal		
Ensure That Our Regional Community Has a Safety Net in Place to Help Individuals and Families Access Basic Necessities During Times of Need		
Strategic Basic Needs Priorities	Food	Strategies
		Provision of Hot Meals
		Grocery/Food Pantry
		Mobile Food Programming
		Indicators
		# of Individuals Served
		# of Meals Served
		Pounds of Food Provided (Separate Identification of Pounds of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables)
	Shelter	Strategies
		Emergency Shelter (day or night)
		Utility Assistance (Gas, Electric, Deliverable Fuels, Water/Sewer)
		Indicators
		# of Unduplicated Individuals Served & Nights of Shelter
		# of Unduplicated Individuals Provided Day Shelters Services (Identification of Distinct Services)
		# of Unduplicated Households Receiving Utility Assistance
	Other Basic Necessities	Strategies
		Identification & Vital Records Assistance (e.g. Provision/Renewal of State ID or Drivers License)
		Clothing Provision
		Disaster Relief
		Crisis Support Services Needed to Access Basic Needs Resources
		Transportation Assistance
		Childcare Assistance
		Indicators
		# of Unduplicated Individuals Served – Documents Obtained
		# of Unduplicated Individuals Served – Clothing Received (Segregate Winter Clothing)
		# of Unduplicated Individuals Served – Direct Assistance Received
		# of People Treated for Crisis Support, Units of Service (e.g. Hours), and/or # of Referrals
		# of Bus Tokens and/or Gas Vouchers (with dollar amount)
		# of Individuals Receiving Child Care Assistance, Units of Service (e.g. Hours), and/or # of Referrals Provided
UWBCKR has a special interest in equity and the reduction of economic and racial disparities in systems and outcomes. Therefore, programmatic elements that intentionally address these issues are encouraged, including but not limited to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anti-bias training and assessment</li><li>• Inclusive supports (e.g. multi-lingual service provision or the use of non-traditional communication methods)</li><li>• Neighborhood-based programming in high-need areas</li></ul>		
<i>*Annual Demographic Data to Be Collected By All Funded Partner Agencies and Programs</i>		
Population(s) of Interest: Individuals and Families in Need of Basic Necessities		

# BASIC NEEDS

## Community Level Goal

Ensure That Our Regional Community Has a Safety Net in Place to Help Individuals and Families Access Basic Necessities During Times of Need

### Rationale

- Addressing a person's basic needs increases their ability to maintain housing and employment, which in turn, allows them to make economic and professional contributions to our community
- Food and housing insecurity also affect a person's health and educational development
- An effective safety net can be the vehicle that moves someone from homelessness into stability
- Having a safety net in place increases the stability of ALICE households, which means they will be less likely to need more services in the future or forgo paying one bill to pay another
- Not having access to transportation, child care, crisis supports, and identification are major barriers that prevent social mobility
- In the last year, the number of homeless individuals in the region has decreased slightly as have the number of food insecure adults and children

### Research

#### Homeless Data

##### Kalamazoo County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) 2016:

Total number of homeless individuals:	5184
Percent who are children (under 18):	28%
Percent who have a disabling condition:	31%
Percent who are survivors of domestic violence:	28%
Percent who are single parents:	39%

##### Calhoun County Homeless Management Information System Data 2016:

Total number of homeless individuals:	1353
Percent who are children (under 18):	20%
Percent who have a disabling condition:	43%
Percent who are survivors of domestic violence:	17%
Percent who are single parents:	21%

#### 211 Call Data

In 2016, calls for basic needs services continued to top the list. In Calhoun County, there were 4044 referrals to food pantries and 1949 referrals for utility assistance. In Kalamazoo County, there were over 2000 calls for utility assistance.

#### Food Insecurity

The number and percent of population of **food insecure** adults and children:

	Adults	Children
Kalamazoo Co.	37,380 (14.6%)	8,760 (15.4%)
Calhoun Co.	19,890 (14.3%)	5,560 (17.6%)

Source: *Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2017 (using 2015 data)*

The 2016 monthly average of calls to DHHS for the Food Assistance Program (FAP) for Kalamazoo County was **17,698**. For Calhoun County, it was **12,353**.

Source: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/DHS-Trend\\_Table\\_24\\_269236\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/DHS-Trend_Table_24_269236_7.pdf)

#### Lack of Identification and Vital Records

Approximately 50% of the homeless population in the U.S. has been denied access to basic needs resources for not having a birth certificate and/or a state ID. Applied to local HMIS numbers means there could be over 3,200 individuals in our region who are trapped into homelessness.

Source: *National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty: Photo Identification Barriers Faced by Homeless People, 2004*

#### Crisis Services

Homelessness can be both the cause and effect of mental health issues that prevent individuals from successfully access the safety net of service they need. In 2015, over 8,000 contacts were made for crisis services including distress and suicide prevention centers.

Source: *Ending Homelessness in Michigan 2015 Annual Report*

#### Drop-In Child Care and Transportation Assistance

According to ALICE data, single-parent households experience greater financial instability. More supports for quality drop-in child care and transportation are needed as parents seek services and employment.

##### Kalamazoo Co.

Percent of households below ALICE Survival Threshold:	36%
Percent of single female-headed households below ALICE:	73%

##### Calhoun Co.

Percent of households below ALICE Survival Threshold:	41%
Percent of single female-headed households below ALICE:	91%

Source: *United Way ALICE Study of Financial Hardship, 2017 Update*