

# LIVINGSTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY

## Health and Human Service Needs FACT SHEET

### Financial Stability June 2018

#### The Need for a Solid Community “Safety Net” in Livingston County.

9,263	<b>Children under 18 in single parent households</b> (2011-2015 average).
\$31.34	<b>Hourly “living wage”</b> required for a family with two pre-school children.
62%	Michigan jobs that <b>pay less than \$20 per hour.</b>
14,580	<b>“Food Insecure”</b> individuals (lacking enough nutritious food for a healthy life – 2016).
4,496	Students (K-12) eligible for <b>free/reduced school lunches</b> (2016-2017).
2,019	<b>2-1-1 calls/web searches</b> (2017) Top requests: 1) homeless motel vouchers 2) electric payment assistance, 3) housing search assistance, 4) rent assistance, 5) food pantries.
10,940	Individuals living below <b>Federal Poverty Level</b> (2016 Census est.).
14,134	<b>Medicaid-eligible</b> individuals (2018)

#### Meet ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed).

**ALICE** represents the hard-working individuals who go to work every day, but struggle to afford the high cost of living in Livingston County. According to the 2015 update of a report by Rutgers University and commissioned by United Way organizations in Michigan, 21% or **14,931 local families** are working in high growth areas such as healthcare, personal services, childcare, etc., but earning *below* the level needed to be financially stable in Livingston County, called the “ALICE Threshold”, which is \$62,688 for a family with two young children.

The **ALICE Report** gives us a picture of our post-recession environment; highlights some of the challenges associated with the high costs of housing, transportation, and childcare; and provides a much more accurate measure of financial hardship in this changed economy. View the entire report at [www.lcunitedway.org](http://www.lcunitedway.org).

#### What is Helping Families to Become More Financially Stable?



Several local organizations provide basic needs, financial education, budgeting, planning, and employment services. Call 2-1-1 to learn which services may be able to assist. Individual organizations should then be contacted directly to determine program eligibility.

**Homeless Continuum of Care:** This coalition of organizations works to coordinate a continuum of housing services from homelessness to shelter, to rent payment assistance to affordable housing. It focuses on holistic approaches to stabilizing households and growing self-sufficiency such as the Eviction Diversion Program, which meets clients at court; quickly assesses each situation; provides legal assistance, planning, and one-time rent assistance to get back on track.



Livingston County  
Homeless Continuum of Care Committee



**Livingston County Hunger Council:** The council is working together to build a local food system that provides a hunger-free community – now and for generations to come. It is focused on building a culture of nutrition, supporting local food, and strengthening food programs.

**Livingston County Literacy Coalition:** Offers a free adult tutor program to help workers sharpen their skills and improve their employability.



**Livingston County Community Connect:** A free annual event to get people connected to the information and services they need in a welcoming environment. Community Connect also provides free haircuts, legal consultation, health screenings, clothing, baby items, food, and more.

**My Free Taxes:** File your federal and state income taxes online, and access available tax credits – free for eligible households.



**Livingston Employer Resource Network:** Several of the larger employers have partnered with LERN to provide workforce supports and access to resources through an on-site resource navigator/success coach. Check with your employer.



**My Smart Money:** Is an interactive, easy-to-use website that offers simple, useful tips and tools to help all of us manage our money.



**Annual Backpack Giveaway & Kids Connect:** This partnership between Livingston Education Services Agency and Homeless Continuum of Care provides free backpacks, school supplies, books, socks, clothing vouchers, fresh produce, and more to students in need.

**Coordinated Holiday Programs:** The holidays can be especially hard for low-income families, so local organizations meet each Fall to coordinate programs, eliminate duplication, and serve as many families as possible during the holidays.

**What Can the Community Do to Help?** Although there are several organizations and collaborative groups working on improving financial stability of families, there are never enough resources to assist all individuals & families who need it. Here are ways to get involved:

- Donate money or goods to a local organization which assists people with basic needs.
- Join the Livingston County Hunger Council, visit [www.livingstonhunger.com](http://www.livingstonhunger.com).
- Volunteer your time to help one or more of the local organizations. Contact your favorite organization to offer your help, or visit [www.volunteerlivingston.org](http://www.volunteerlivingston.org) to find rewarding volunteer opportunities.
- Contact Livingston County United Way to host an “ALICE Discussion” at your workplace or organization. Help the community develop effective strategies to support working families. Call 810-494-3000, or contact [dgehringer@lcunitedway.org](mailto:dgehringer@lcunitedway.org).
- Organize a fundraiser or a food drive through your workplace or place of worship.
- Join one of the workgroups to bring your perspective, and help plan the best strategies.
- Attend a community forum or presentation to learn more about the needs of the community.
- Invite a workgroup member to speak at your organization or club meeting to learn more about community issues and resources.
- Advocate for policies and initiatives that will create a broader array of housing options and transportation systems to meet the needs of this rapidly changing community.

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