



Community Needs Assessment:

Inter-County Community Council Oklee, Minnesota

July 2024

WIPFLI



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Executive Summary

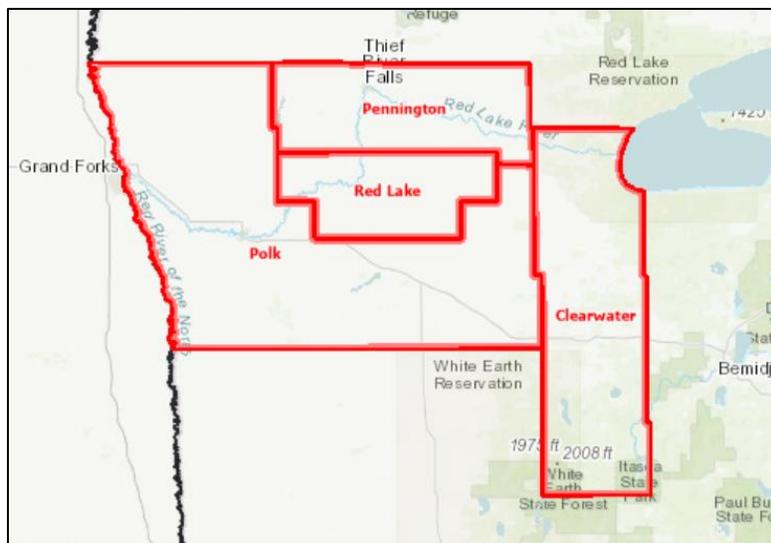
Overview

Inter-County Community Council, Inc. (“ICCC” or “Agency”) recognizes the need for conducting a community assessment to effectively design its programs and services to meet family and community needs. As a Community Action Agency, receiving Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding as well as Head Start program funds, the Agency is required to conduct a Community Needs Assessment every 3 years.

Beginning in early 2024, Wipfli consultants worked alongside the Agency’s leadership team to gather qualitative and quantitative data to compile the needs assessment report. Key findings of the Community Needs Assessment help with planning for programs to continue to build on community resources and strengths, and to assist with reducing the barriers that are faced by families living in poverty. Currently, ICCC provides services in the areas of:

- Employment and Training
- Energy Assistance
- Family Services
- Head Start
- Weatherization
- Health Insurance
- Food Support

ICCC has a mission of building communities to support people in poverty with resources and opportunities. Specifically, ICCC works within Pennington, Red Lake, (east) Polk, and Clearwater counties. The assessment that follows provides data collected on these areas to support how they continue to meet their mission.



Wipfli's 4 – Step Approach

Step 1- Planning

- Wipfli and ICCC engaged in the process of defining the scope, scale, and framework of the CNA process.

Step 2 – Data Collection

- Wipfli facilitated the collection of qualitative and quantitative data.

Step 3 – Analyzing the Data

- Wipfli reviewed the qualitative and quantitative data analyzed.

Step 4 – Communicate the CNA

- Wipfli compiled all data into a formal report and reviewed with leadership.

Data on the following information was collected:

- *Analysis of the needs of low-income families in ICCC's service area.* A variety of sources were used such as a survey that included residents, census data, among others.
- *Factors such as Employment, Education, Housing, Health, Nutrition, Transportation, and Human Services were evaluated.* A description of the needs of low-income families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being.
- *Community Resources.* A review of community resources available to clients in the service area and low-income individuals was performed.
- *Barriers to Services.* Obstacles to services were identified through an analysis of data and a survey. The analysis seeks to find alignment to the needs of families, the community, and agency needs and resources.

Identified Areas of Need

The **five areas of focus** include:

1. Access to Safe, Affordable Housing for Families
2. Challenges with Current Cost of Living and Sustainable Income
3. Families Facing Childcare Issues
4. Transportation Issues
5. Coordination of Services for Families in Need

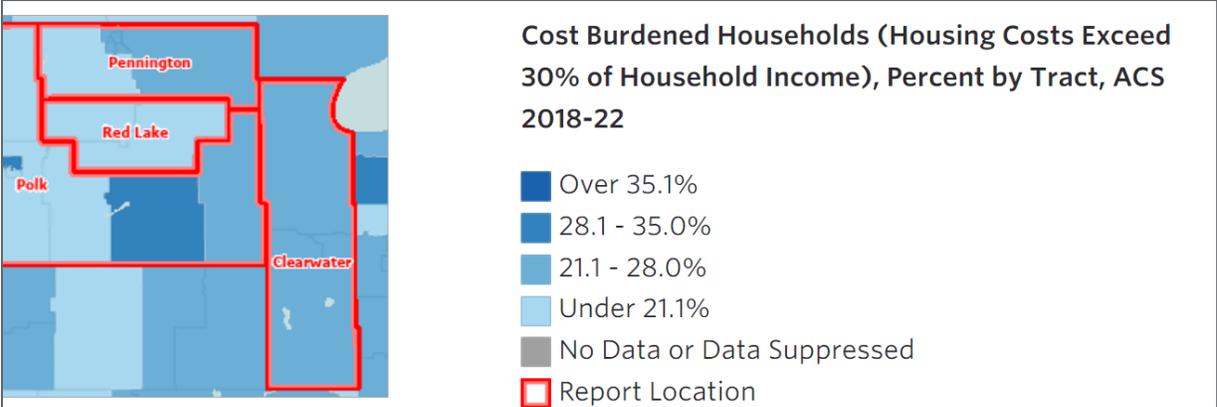
Details on the Five Areas of Focus

Access to Safe, Affordable Housing for Families

The need for affordable housing appears to persist and cross diverse populations.

Data analyzed centered around the need for safe, affordable housing for families in the service area.

- Service area data indicates that availability of affordable housing by the definitions set forth by HUD are limited. In addition, the rate per 10,000 of HUD-assisted housing units in the service area is higher than both the state and national average at 675. Clearwater County has the lowest rate, and Polk County has the highest.



- Of the 23,456 total households in the report area, 5,562 or 23.71% of the population live in cost burdened households (spending more than 30% on housing costs). This does rank slightly lower than the state average; however, East Polk County does have the most cost-burdened households in the service area.
 - East Polk County has more rental housing available, but also the higher housing cost burden for renter-occupied homes (43.5%).
- The ability for many ICCC clients to own a home is out of reach.
 - a. From 2000 to 2022, the percentage of owner-occupied homes across the service area has decreased by 13% (down to 62.71% in 2022).

(Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22. Source geography: County)
 - b. 83% of the Community Needs Survey respondents indicated that the cost of rent/house payment are an issue for the community.
 - c. Focus group and interview participants also indicated that affordable housing is a major need in their area.
- Nearly one-quarter of housing units across the service area are considered substandard (24%), with as many as 27.2% having one or more substandard conditions present in Clearwater County. Red Lake and Pennington Counties

have the higher quality housing in the service area. In the American Community Survey, substandard includes:

- 1) lacking complete plumbing facilities, 2) lacking complete kitchen facilities, 3) with 1 or more occupants per room, 4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30%, and 5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30%.
 - i. The age of housing units may contribute to this as the majority of homes in the service area were built over 40 years ago, especially in East Polk County.

(Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22. Source geography: Tract)

Challenges with the Current Cost of Living and Sustainable Income

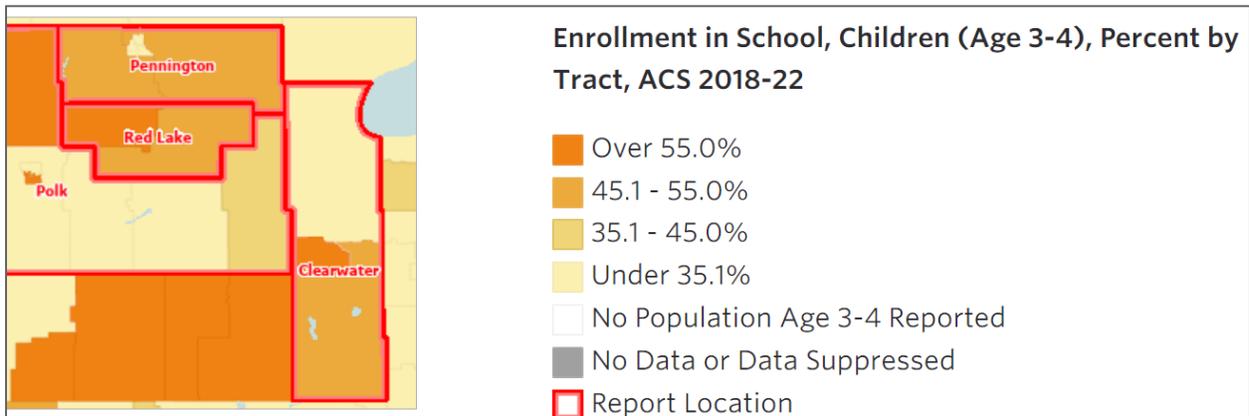
Data analyzed and surveys centered around the need for supporting sustainable income to meet basic needs. Demographic data support the qualitative discussion.

- Focus group and interview participants indicated that simply having enough income to afford basic needs is an issue. Respondents also indicated that inflation issues have affected the community making it difficult to survive without government assistance. Of the households that receive government assistance, 54 % of Community Needs Survey respondents indicated that food stamps run out before end of month.
 - 82% of Community Needs Survey respondents indicated that there is not enough income to purchase food.
 - Median household income in Clearwater County is \$62,723, which is over \$20,000 less than the state average. Furthermore, all counties in the service area rank below both the state and national average. This demonstrates further challenges for families in these areas to afford basic needs.
 - The labor force participation rate in the service area is 64.85%, which is slightly lower than the state average and the unemployment rate is slightly higher at 3.4%, indicating potential challenges in people being able to gain and maintain employment.
 - Clearwater and Polk Counties both have the highest poverty rates in the service area (nearly 12%), with Clearwater County also having the highest percent uninsured (13%).
 - Out of 9,299 total public school students in the report area, 3,392 were eligible for the free or reduced price lunch program in the latest report year. This represents 36.5% of public school students, which is slightly higher than the state average.
 - 48% of the Community Needs Survey respondents indicated that there is a lack of good paying jobs with benefits.

- 43% of the Community Needs Survey respondents indicated the current jobs available are low paying.
- The term living wage refers to a theoretical income level that allows individuals or families to afford adequate shelter, food, and other necessities. The goal of a living wage is to allow employees to earn enough income for a satisfactory standard of living and prevent them from falling into poverty.

Families Facing Childcare Issues

Trends in recent years have highlighted the need for better infrastructure and availability for affordable childcare in the United States with ICCC’s service area being no exception.



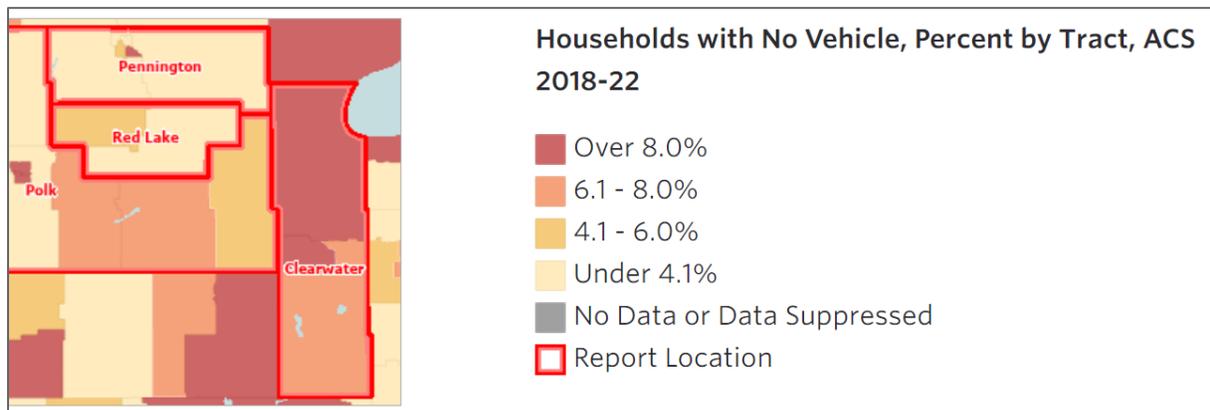
- Preschool enrollment across the service area is lower than both the state and national average, with less than a third enrolled in East Polk and Northern Clearwater County. These early education metrics can be used to describe variation in population access, proficiency, and attainment throughout the education system.
- The Childcare Cost Burden for a household with two children as a percent of median household income varies across the service area, with it being highest (30%) in Clearwater County and lowest (25%) in Pennington County. The average across the service area is 27%. (*County Health Rankings, 2023*)
- While high school completion rates are high, especially in Red Lake, Polk, and Pennington Counties (93–95%), the percentage of adults with some post-secondary education is only 53% in Clearwater County and only about 23% in the service area have a bachelor’s degree or higher. Educational attainment is often linked to more positive health outcomes and economic mobility.
 - 46% of Community Needs Survey respondents indicated that cost of childcare influences access to higher education
 - 43% of Community Needs Survey respondents indicated that the lack of childcare influences access to higher education

- One barrier to accessing childcare is often transportation, which is explored further in the next segment. Being in a rural area, fewer transportation options are often available and the distance to travel is greater.

Transportation Challenges

The impact of a lack of reliable transportation and associated transportation infrastructures impacts many aspects of rural communities including the ability to find sustainable wage employment, access to medical and dental care, and options for childcare.

- Of all households across the service area 6.18% have no motor vehicle and for rental households this is greater in all areas (17%). (Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22.)



- A greater number of households in the northern part of Clearwater County have no motor vehicle – over 8%. In this same area, renter-occupied households experience this more often, with 22% of those households having no motor vehicle.
- The high cost of gasoline, in recent times, has contributed to transportation issue in the area especially with the greater distances between the places where people live, work, and access basic necessities.
 - 28% of Community Needs Survey respondents indicated that cost of transportation influences their access to employment.
- Focus group and interview participants indicated that the lack of transportation, specifically a reliable vehicle, affects:
 - The community member’s ability to drop off/pick up their children at a child care center,
 - The community member’s ability to access a grocery store, “there is no grocery store in this community”,
 - The community member’s ability to access adequate healthcare, “Senior citizens have to travel 17 miles to go see a doctor”.

- Transportation also influences the following in the community:
 - 35% of Community Needs Survey respondents indicated that lack of transportation influences their ability to access higher education.
 - 30% of Community Needs Survey respondents indicated that lack of transportation influences their access to employment.
 - 28% of Community Needs Survey respondents indicated that cost of transportation influences their access to employment.

Coordination of Services for Families in Need

A holistic, coordinated approach within the agency and across the community has been shown to enhance outcomes for families given that poverty is complex and not solved by one program or service.

ICCC can continue to build partnerships with surrounding agencies that may be able to provide services and assistance with issues beyond their service offerings. For example, agencies that assist community members with housing, food, transportation, and employment among others. Focus group participants also noted that there is a need to bring in additional resources/organizations to assist the new immigrant population, especially Spanish speaking resources.

ICCC can act as a catalyst for service awareness by targeting locations of high need to disperse and extend resources or accessibility support to those areas. More information on these areas of high need can be found in the Area Deprivation Index segment below.

It should be noted that ICCC is addressing needs of the families they serve, as well as engaging parents to encourage parent involvement. Research has shown that children do better when their parent or guardian is involved. 100% of Community Needs Survey respondents, that have children enrolled in ICCC's Head Start program, indicated that ICCC encourages positive parent/child relationships.

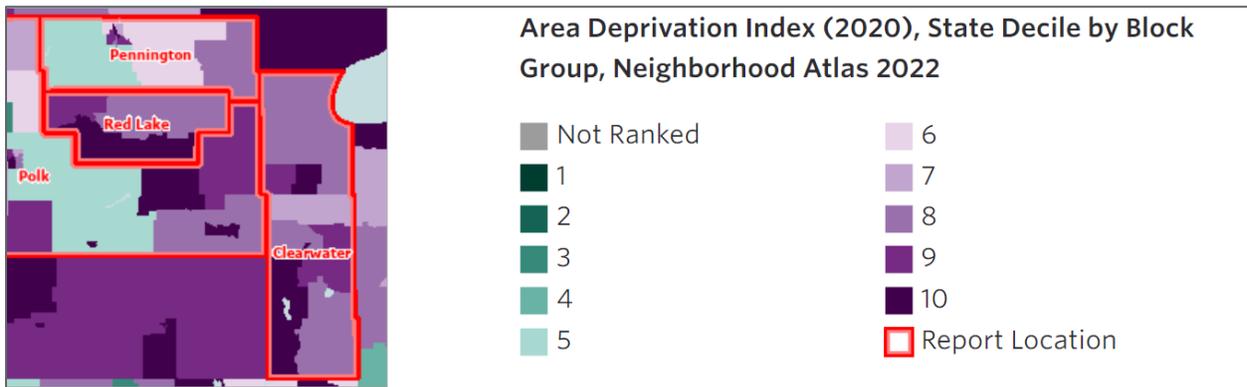
Area Deprivation Index

The Area Deprivation Index ranks neighborhoods and communities relative to all neighborhoods across the nation (National Percentile) or relative to other neighborhoods within just one state (State Percentile). The ADI is calculated based on 17 measures related to four primary domains (Education; Income & Employment; Housing; and Household Characteristics). The overall scores are measured on a scale of 1 to 100 where 1 indicates the lowest level of deprivation (least disadvantaged) and 100 is the highest level of deprivation (most disadvantaged).

Area Deprivation Index Score (National Percentile)



The national score for the four county report area is 65, with Red Lake ranking the highest at 73. The map below demonstrates this, with the darker purple being the most disadvantaged.



For the purposes of this overview, all quantitative data is sourced from the 2018-2022 American Community Survey unless otherwise noted.

Appendix

- Appendix A – Summary of Data Sources
- Appendix B – Quantitative Data
- Appendix C – Survey Results

Appendix A

Summary of Data Sources	
Quantitative Data	
Source	Topics
U.S. Census American Community Survey	Demographics, education, income, healthcare/insurance, employment, housing, basic assistance, economics.
Bureau of Labor Statistics	Employment, income and wages, industry, workforce.
SparkMap Data Hub	Population demographics, poverty, housing, education, income, childcare, health <i>(SparkMap uses reliable and timely secondary data from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Transportation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and more. Data geographies range from state, county, city, census tract, school district, and ZIP code levels.)</i>
U.S. Department of Education	Education, student demographics
National Low-Income Housing Coalition	Housing costs and availability
Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center	Child population demographics, poverty, access, center data (MN State Level data included)
County Health Rankings and Roadmaps	Health, well-being, children population demographics
Minnesota Compass	American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD).
First Children’s Finance Fund	Childcare need and capacity data
Qualitative Data	
Surveys	Wipfli administered two surveys: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community Needs Survey – shared during a Poverty Simulation hosted by Inter-County Community Council on March 22, 2024: 34 responses were collected Community Needs /Customer Satisfaction Survey: 97 responses were collected
Interviews	3 Stakeholder interviews were conducted
Focus Groups	Wipfli hosted two focus group sessions on the following dates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> May 16, 2024: 3 – 4 pm May 23, 2024: 3 – 4 pm

Appendix B

Demographics

Current population demographics and changes in demographic composition over time play a determining role in the types of health and social services needed by communities. All demographic data is derived from the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD).

Total Population by Gender

Sex	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Male	7,035	3,715	2,031	4,314
Female	6,960	3,310	1,881	4,227

Total Population by Age Groups

Age	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Under 5 years	829	447	223	524
5-9 years	886	507	261	546
10-14 years	840	462	297	680
15-17 years	593	275	172	377
18-24 years	1,151	419	225	621
25-34 years	1,735	739	342	855
35-44 years	1,801	643	545	1,014
45-54 years	1,594	646	411	914
55-64 years	1,985	1,095	584	1,242
65-74 years	1,445	934	469	995
75-84 years	867	585	243	495
85 years and older	269	273	140	278

Population by Race and Ethnicity

This table reports the percentage of the total population in the report area by race and ethnicity, with data in some areas being suppressed and therefore not reportable.

Race & Ethnicity	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
White	12,454	6,294	3,566	7,113
Of Color	1,176	635	263	1,360
Black or African American alone	169	164	suppressed	suppressed

American Indian and Alaskan Native alone	163	41	60	552
Asian or Pacific Islander alone	175	suppressed	suppressed	56
Other alone	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Two or more races alone	342	202	105	568
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	636	237	149	214

Language

Language	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Population (5 years and older)	13,166	6,578	3,689	8,017
English only	12,541	5,931	3,582	7,561
Language other than English	625	647	107	456
Speaks English less than very well"	94	185	suppressed	91

Disability

Disability	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Total population for whom disability status is determined	13,798	6,775	3,906	8,405
Population with a disability	2,027	814	517	1,485

Nativity

Nativity	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Foreign-born residents	358	198	32	97

Residency

Residency	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Population (1 year and over in US)	13,861	6,958	3,860	8,450
Same residence	12,145	6,184	3,642	7,658
Different residence in the U.S.	1,715	763	216	790

Income and Poverty

Economic and social insecurity often are associated with poor health. Poverty, unemployment, and lack of educational achievement affect access to care and a community's ability to engage in healthy behaviors. Without a network of support and a safe community, families cannot thrive. Ensuring access to social and economic resources provides a foundation for a healthy community. Income and poverty data is derived from the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD), unless otherwise noted.

Living Wage

The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an individual in a household must earn to support his or herself and their family. The assumption is the sole provider is working full-time (2080 hours per year).

Living Wages				
County	One Adult One Child	One Adult Two Children	Two Adults (1 working) One Child	Two Adults (1 working) Two Children
Pennington	\$34.38	\$43.76	\$33.24	\$37.90
Polk	\$32.44	\$41.52	\$31.38	\$35.95
Red Lake	\$34.03	\$43.53	\$33.15	\$37.96
Clearwater	\$34.03	\$43.53	\$33.13	\$37.96

Source: <http://livingwage.mit.edu>

Income

Income & Poverty	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Total households	6,150	2,872	1,638	3,196
Less than \$35,000	1,338	918	408	869
\$35,000-\$49,999	759	347	161	386
\$50,000-\$74,999	1,135	418	258	600
\$75,000-\$99,999	933	444	269	412
\$100,000 or more	1,985	745	542	929
Median household income (2022 dollars)	\$71,504	\$58,950	\$73,889	\$62,723

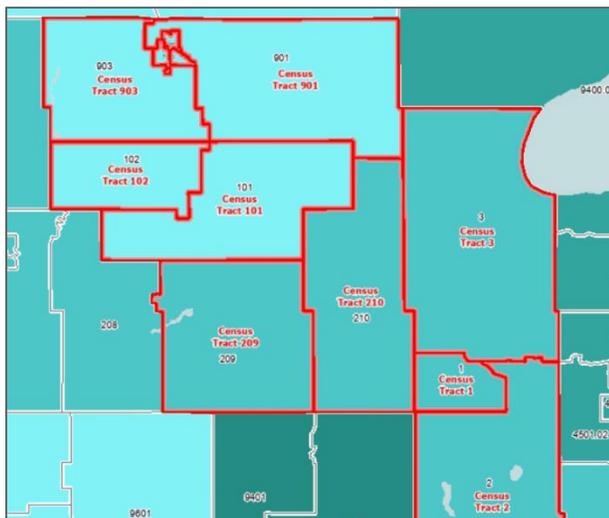
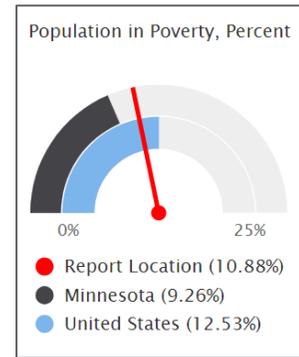
Poverty

Income & Poverty	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
All people for whom poverty status is determined	13,765	6,738	3,900	8,381
With income below poverty	9.60%	13.90%	9.30%	11.30%
With income 100-149% of poverty	6.20%	10.10%	7.90%	8.80%

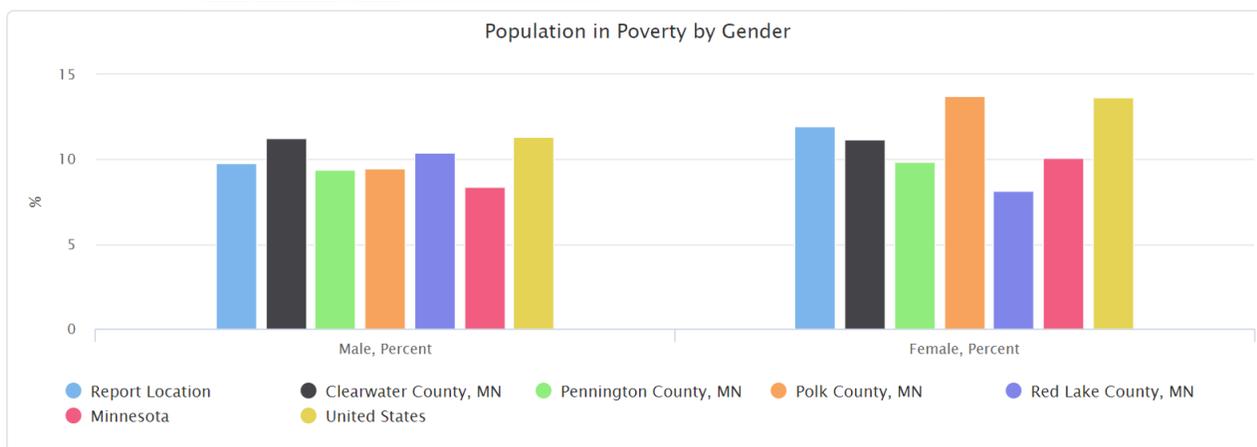
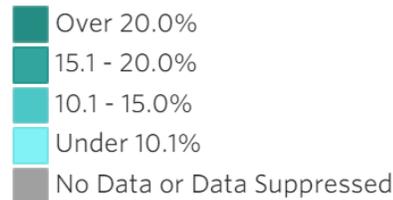
With income 150-199% of poverty	7.20%	9.20%	6.30%	10.20%
With income 200% of poverty or higher	77.00%	66.80%	76.60%	69.70%
17 years and younger (percent of people under age 18)	13.50%	14.80%	9.50%	9.80%
18-24 (percent of people age 18-24)	8.80%	10.30%	14.20%	9.50%
25-34 (percent of people age 25-34)	10.00%	33.20%	9.40%	13.60%
35-44 (percent of people age 35-44)	10.40%	11.80%	7.00%	8.10%
45-54 (percent of people age 45-54)	3.40%	5.90%	4.40%	9.70%
55-64 (percent of people age 55-64)	11.80%	13.00%	8.40%	12.20%
18-64 (percent of people 18-64)	9.10%	15.40%	8.00%	10.70%
65 years and older (percent of people age 65+)	6.50%	9.50%	12.30%	14.60%

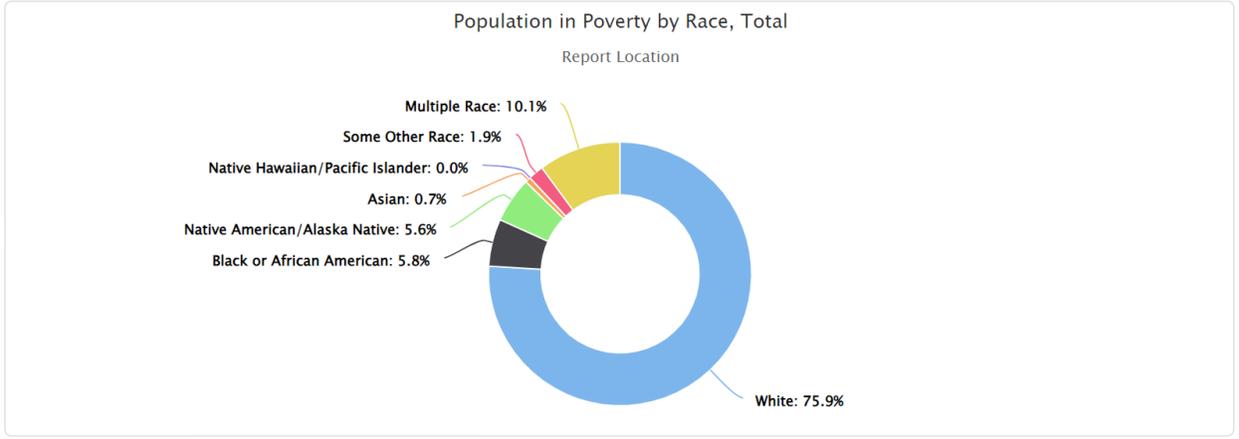
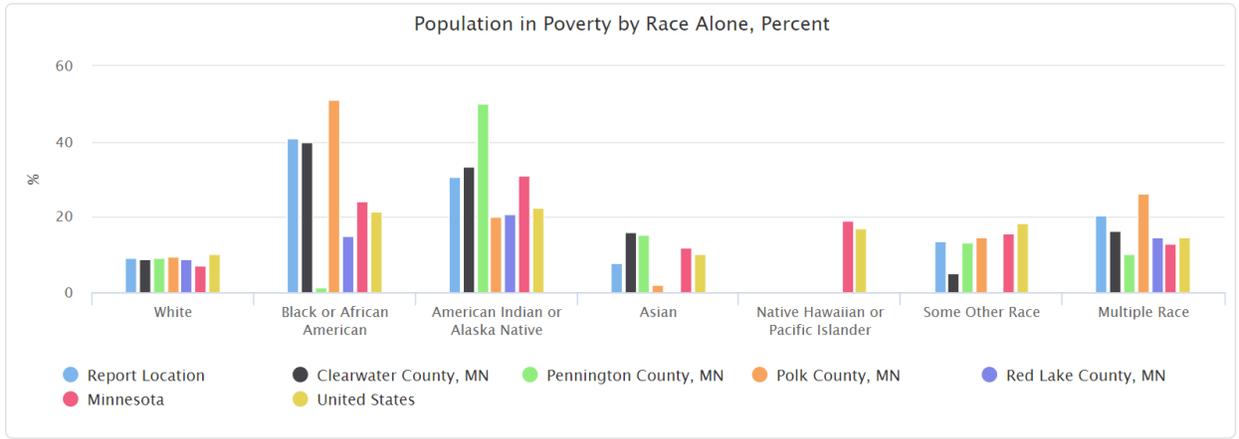
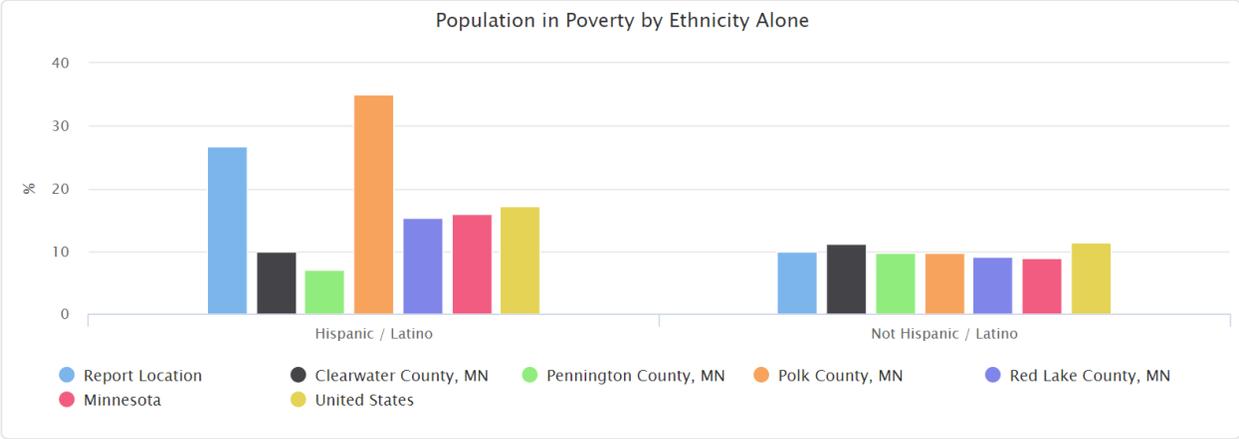
Poverty - Population Below 100% FPL

Within the report area 10.88% or 3,567 individuals are living in households with income below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.



Population Below the Poverty Level, Percent by Tract, ACS 2018-22





Workforce

Workforce	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Total civilian non-institutionalized population, age 18-64	8,194	3,534	2,107	4,601
Working age adults who are employed	6,894	2,736	1,741	3,316
Civilian labor force	7,019	2,835	1,755	3,585
Unemployed	125	99	14	269
Total employed workers	7,512	2,853	1,972	3,613

Workforce Age

Workforce Age	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Age 29 or younger	1,794	672	430	870
Age 30 to 54	3,793	1,395	990	1,824
Age 55 or older	1,925	786	552	919

Workforce by Race

Workforce by Race	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
White alone	7,084	2,715	1,881	3,211
Black or African American alone	87	20	16	23
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	143	64	36	257
Asian alone	81	16	14	24
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Two or more race groups	112	38	24	98
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	260	66	63	67
Less than high school	470	175	129	212
High school or equivalent, no college	1,767	637	477	874
Some college or associate degree	2,331	878	620	1,053
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	1,150	491	316	604

Workers by Earnings & Industry

Workers by Earnings	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
\$15,000 per year or less	1,441	626	440	805
\$15,001 to \$39,999 per year	1,841	840	479	1,127
\$40,000 or more per year	4,230	1,387	1,053	1,681

Workers by Industry	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Accommodation and food services	459	151	124	298

Administration & support, waste management, and remediation	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	158	36	30	80
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	172	13	40	23
Construction	218	155	83	375
Educational services	504	321	210	400
Finance and insurance	146	79	57	68
Health care and social assistance	1,071	623	310	787
Information	82	80	25	47
Management of companies and enterprises	95	48	24	15
Manufacturing	788	192	155	394
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Other services (excluding public administration)	203	60	54	98
Professional, scientific, and technical services	130	70	48	63
Public administration	233	166	89	254
Real estate and rental and leasing	42	25	15	21
Retail trade	667	336	192	374
Transportation and warehousing	158	117	70	93
Utilities	10	14	24	31
Wholesale trade	2,313	271	369	121

Housing and Built Environment

This category contains indicators that describe the structure of housing and families, and the condition and quality of housing units and residential neighborhoods. These indicators are important because housing issues like overcrowding and affordability have been linked to multiple health outcomes, including infectious disease, injuries, and mental disorders. Furthermore, housing metrics like home-ownership rates and housing prices are key for economic analysis.

Housing Units & Types	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Total housing units	6,673	4,048	1,872	4,464
Vacant housing units (seasonal units included)	523	1,176	234	1,268
Occupied housing units	6,150	2,872	1,638	3,196
Average household size	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.6
Owner-occupied	4,467	2,241	1,349	2,617
Average household size	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.7
Renter-occupied	1,683	631	289	579
Average household size	1.7	1.9	1.8	2.1

Housing – Year Built

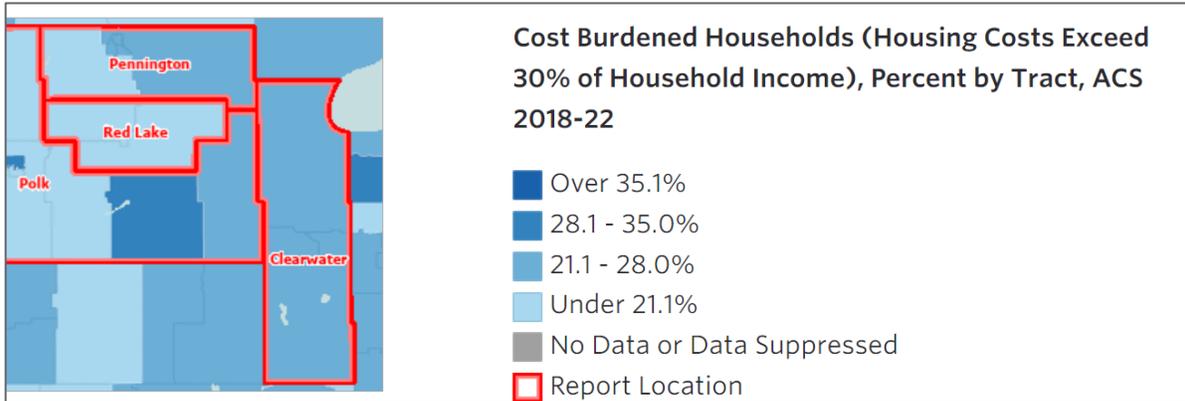
Year Built	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Moved in 2010 or later	3,444	1,387	684	1,582
Moved in 2000-2009	1,097	534	390	743
Moved in 1990-1999	694	395	187	351
Moved in 1989 or earlier	915	556	377	520

Household Type

Household Type	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Total households	6,150	2,872	1,638	3,196
Family households	3,635	1,731	1,060	2,130
With children under 18 years	1,657	675	414	885
Married-couple family households	2,895	1,477	855	1,677
With children under 18 years	1,126	498	287	618
Single-person family households	740	254	205	453
With children under 18 years	531	177	127	267
Nonfamily households	2,515	1,141	578	1,066
Householder living alone	2,096	975	517	907
65 years and over	814	491	275	504
Households with one or more children under 18 years	1,690	684	429	885
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	1,877	1,112	600	1,226

Cost-Burdened Households

Cost-Burdened Households	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
All households for which cost burden is calculated	6,088	2,767	1,581	3,086
Cost-burdened households	1,383	806	314	756
Owner households for which cost burden is calculated	4,458	2,227	1,341	2,588
Cost-burdened owner households	790	506	211	546
Renter households for which cost burden is calculated	1,630	540	240	498
Cost-burdened renter households	593	300	103	210



Rent Paid

Rent Paid	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Households paying rent	1,643	546	240	517
Median rent paid (2022 dollars)	\$935	\$759	\$631	\$753

Vehicles per Household

Vehicles Per Household	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
No vehicles	290	160	74	272
1 vehicle available	1,865	721	354	664
2 vehicles available	2,452	988	600	1,003
3 or more vehicles available	1,543	1,003	610	1,257

Transportation to Work

Transportation to Work	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Workers (16 years and older)	7,317	3,062	1,945	3,576
Car, truck, or van (including passengers)	6,166	2,599	1,641	3,058
Public transportation	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Walked, biked, worked at home, or other	1,110	454	304	512

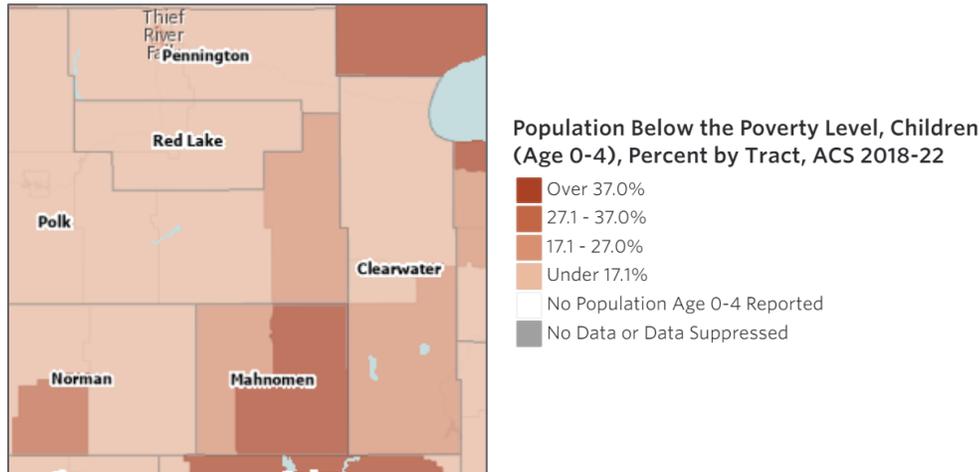
Travel Time to Work

Travel Time to Work	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Total workers age 16+ (not home based)	6,696	2,877	1,776	3,284
Less than 10 minutes	3,036	929	476	839
10-19 minutes	2,512	751	300	796

20-29 minutes	434	369	458	459
30 minutes or longer	714	828	542	1,190

Children & Early Education

Children in Poverty



Child & Center Data

Total Births		
Areas	2021	2022
Clearwater County	85	106
Pennington County	158	164
Polk County	362	356
Red Lake County	51	44

Annie E Casey KIDS COUNT Data – Minnesota Department of Health

Children with No Father Listed on Birth Certificate		
Areas	2021	2022
Clearwater County	23.5%	25.5%
Pennington County	14.6%	14.0%
Polk County	8.3%	10.4%
Red Lake County	N/A	N/A

Annie E Casey KIDS COUNT Data – Minnesota Department of Health

Children Born at Low Birth-weight		
Areas	2021	2022
Clearwater County	4	4
Pennington County	6	9
Polk County	23	15
Red Lake County	3	1

Annie E Casey KIDS COUNT Data – Minnesota Department of Health (definition: under 5.5 lbs)

Children Abused or Neglected (reported)		
Areas	2019	2021
Clearwater County	21	18
Pennington County	2	9
Polk County	54	53
Red Lake County	1	0

Annie E Casey KIDS COUNT Data – Minnesota Department of Human Services

Children in Out-of-Home Placements		
Areas	2020	2021
Clearwater County	47	33
Pennington County	16	28
Polk County	110	106
Red Lake County	1	5

Annie E Casey KIDS COUNT Data – Minnesota Department of Human Services

Mothers and Children Receiving WIC Nutrition Vouchers		
Areas	2020	2021
Clearwater County	324	334
Pennington County	472	446
Polk County	1,204	1,147
Red Lake County	157	175

Annie E Casey KIDS COUNT Data – WIC Category Annual Summary Reports

Children Eligible for Free & Reduced Price Lunch		
Areas	2022	2023
Clearwater County	45.5%	59.2%
Pennington County	31.3%	39.2%
Polk County	37.2%	48.5%
Red Lake County	29.8%	43.1%

Annie E Casey KIDS COUNT Data – Minnesota Department of Education, Data Center

Center-Based Childcare Serving Children with Special Needs		
Areas	2021	2022
Clearwater County	0	1
Pennington County	2	3
Polk County	2	11
Red Lake County	1	1

Annie E Casey KIDS COUNT Data – ChildCare Aware of Minnesota

Licensed Center-Based Childcare		
Areas	2021	2022
Clearwater County	N/A	N/A
Pennington County	2	2
Polk County	7	6
Red Lake County	1	1

Annie E Casey KIDS COUNT Data – ChildCare Aware of Minnesota

Average Annual Cost for Licensed Center-Based Childcare - 2021		
Areas	Infant	Preschool
Clearwater County	N/A	N/A
Pennington County	\$8,400	\$7,680
Polk County	\$8,352	\$7,584
Red Lake County	\$7,680	\$7,104

Annie E Casey KIDS COUNT Data – ChildCare Aware of Minnesota (**note: family-based childcare is \$1,000+ less in all areas**)

Childcare Offering Nonstandard Hours - 2022		
Areas	Family-Based	Center-Based
Clearwater County	22	1
Pennington County	48	3
Polk County	85	11
Red Lake County	12	1

Annie E Casey KIDS COUNT Data – ChildCare Aware of Minnesota

Childcare Need Summary

Across Northwest Minnesota, which also includes the counties of Beltrami, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, and Roseau in addition to the four county service area for ICCC, the childcare need is 3,120. This is down from 3,410 in 2022, but up from pre-pandemic need. This is calculated with the following assumptions:

- If a zip code falls in more than one city and/or county, data was placed in the primary city and/or county as determined by the U.S. Postal Service.
- All programs offering less than all day, every-day child care were excluded.
- Due to lack of publicly available capacity data, all certified and non-certified programs (generally school-based programs) were excluded.

Totals	June 2023
Childcare Centers (CCC)	20
CCC Capacity	1,153
Family Childcare (FCC)	361
FCC Capacity	4,309
Total Capacity	5,462
Capacity*	4,643
Under '6' Working	9,132
Children Under 5**	7,762
Childcare Need	(3,120)

Exact need per calculation is 3,119. Reporting summary totals per First Children's Finance Fund.

* Capacity is an internal calculation of First Children's Finance based upon historical data collection

** Children under 5 is an adjusted calculation from 2017-2021 U.S. Census American Community Survey, 5-year estimates

Data Sources: First Children's Finance Fund - American Community Survey 2017-2021; Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education, & U.S. Postal Service

Educational Attainment

Across the service area, high school graduation rates span from 84.3% in Polk County to 92.9% in Red Lake (Minnesota Department of Education, 2022). Other Educational attainment by total is listed below. Quality early education is a key indicator of attainment later in life.

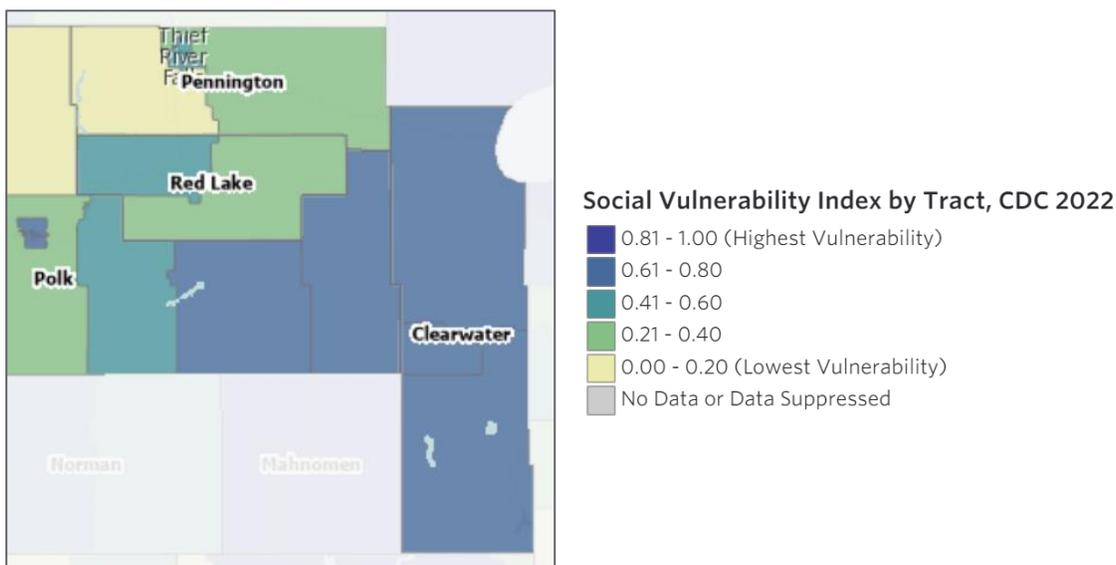
Educational Attainment	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Population (25 years and older)	9,696	4,915	2,734	5,793
Less than high school	456	459	136	720
High school diploma or GED	2,926	1,704	997	2,139
Some college or associate's degree	4,408	1,577	1,127	1,876
Bachelor's Degree	1,391	859	393	748
Graduate or professional degree	515	316	81	310
High school graduate or higher	9,240	4,456	2,598	5,073
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,906	1,175	474	1,058

Health & Well-being

Social Vulnerability Index

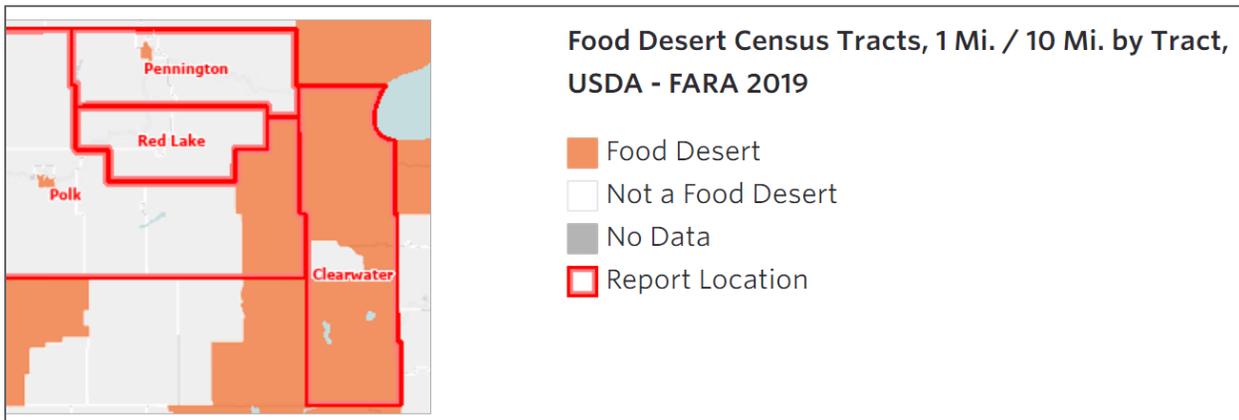
The degree to which a community exhibits certain social conditions, including high poverty, low percentage of vehicle access, or crowded households, may affect that community's ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss in the event of disaster.

The social vulnerability index is a measure of the degree of social vulnerability in counties and neighborhoods across the United States, where a higher score indicates higher vulnerability. Clearwater County has the highest vulnerability at .77, while Western Pennington has the lowest, at .06.



Food Environment - Food Desert Census Tracts

This indicator reports the number of neighborhoods in the report area that are within food deserts. The USDA Food Access Research Atlas defines a food desert as any neighborhood that lacks healthy food sources due to income level, distance to supermarkets, or vehicle access. The report area has a population of 15,085 living in food deserts and a total of 5 census tracts classified as food deserts by the USDA.



US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, [USDA - Food Access Research Atlas](#), 2019. Source geography: Tract

Poor or Fair Health

This indicator reports the number and percentage of adults age 18 and older who self-report their general health status as “fair” or “poor.” In this report area, the estimated prevalence of fair or poor health among adults aged 18 years and older was 15.3%. People in the area tend to have an average of 3 poor health days per month. (County Health Rankings, 2021).

- Dental access is also an issue with 2,000 or more people per provider. In Red Lake County, this nearly doubles at 3,870:1. (County Health Rankings, 2022)

Report Area	Total Population	Adults Age 18+ with Poor or Fair General Health (Crude)	Adults Age 18+ with Poor or Fair General Health (Age-Adjusted)
Report Location	57,046	15.3%	13.9%
Clearwater County, MN	8,576	17.90%	16.00%
Pennington County, MN	13,780	14.20%	12.90%
Polk County, MN	30,757	15.10%	13.80%

Report Area	Total Population	Adults Age 18+ with Poor or Fair General Health (Crude)	Adults Age 18+ with Poor or Fair General Health (Age-Adjusted)
Red Lake County, MN	3,933	15.50%	13.60%
Minnesota	5,707,390	12.88%	12.14%
United States	331,893,745	16.10%	15.20%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Accessed via the [PLACES Data Portal](#), 2021.

Mental Health

Nearly 16% of the community across the service area reports “frequent mental distress”, with more than 5 days of “poor mental health” for people per month for people in both Clearwater and Pennington Counties (~4 in Red Lake and Polk Counties). (County Health Rankings, 2021)

- Particularly in Clearwater County, access to mental health providers is an issue with a ratio of 1 provider per 4,320 people. In other counties in the service area that ratio is significantly lower ~350:1). (County Health Rankings, 2023)

Health Coverage

Health Coverage	Pennington	East Polk	Red Lake	Clearwater
Total population age 65 and under for whom health insurance coverage status is determined	11,334	5,225	3,060	6,728
Population 65 and under without health insurance coverage	413	452	108	1,031

Community Needs/ Customer Satisfaction Survey Report

June 2024



Prepared for:



By:

WIPFLI

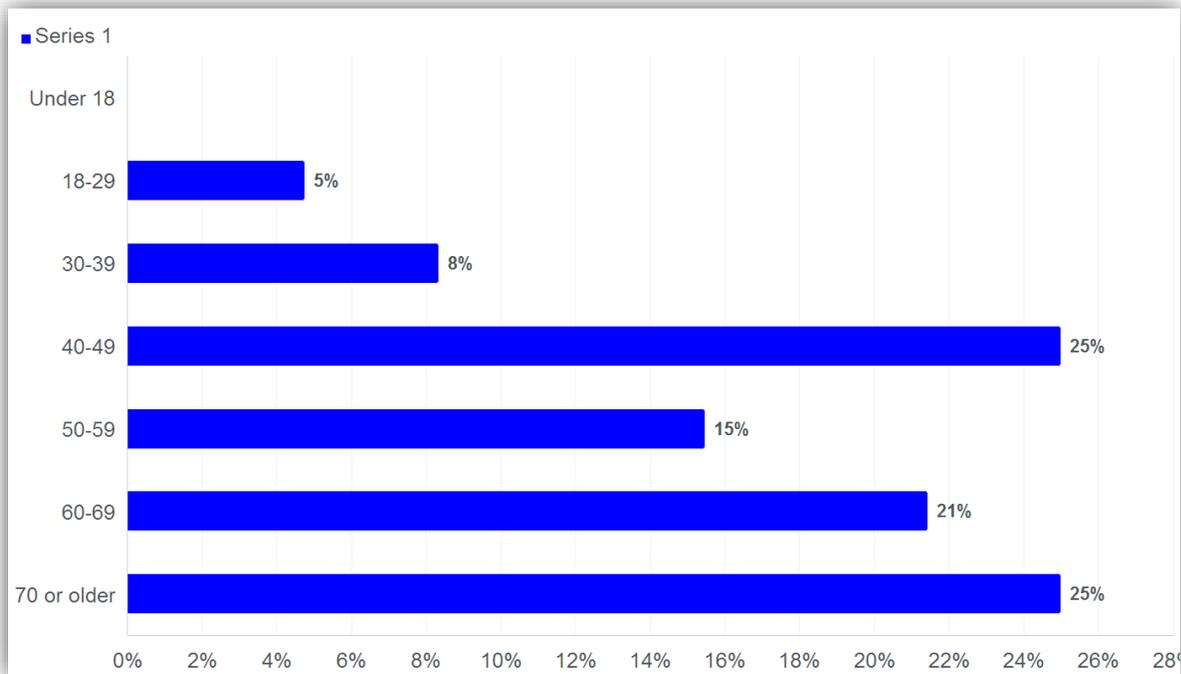
Background on Survey

In early 2024, Inter-County Community Council's (ICCC) partnered with Wipfli LLP to conduct this year's community needs assessment. As part of the qualitative data gathering, Wipfli administered the Community Needs Assessment/ Customer Satisfaction Survey. The purpose of the survey was to gather insights from ICCC's clients as well as member of the community.

Total number of responses collected: 97

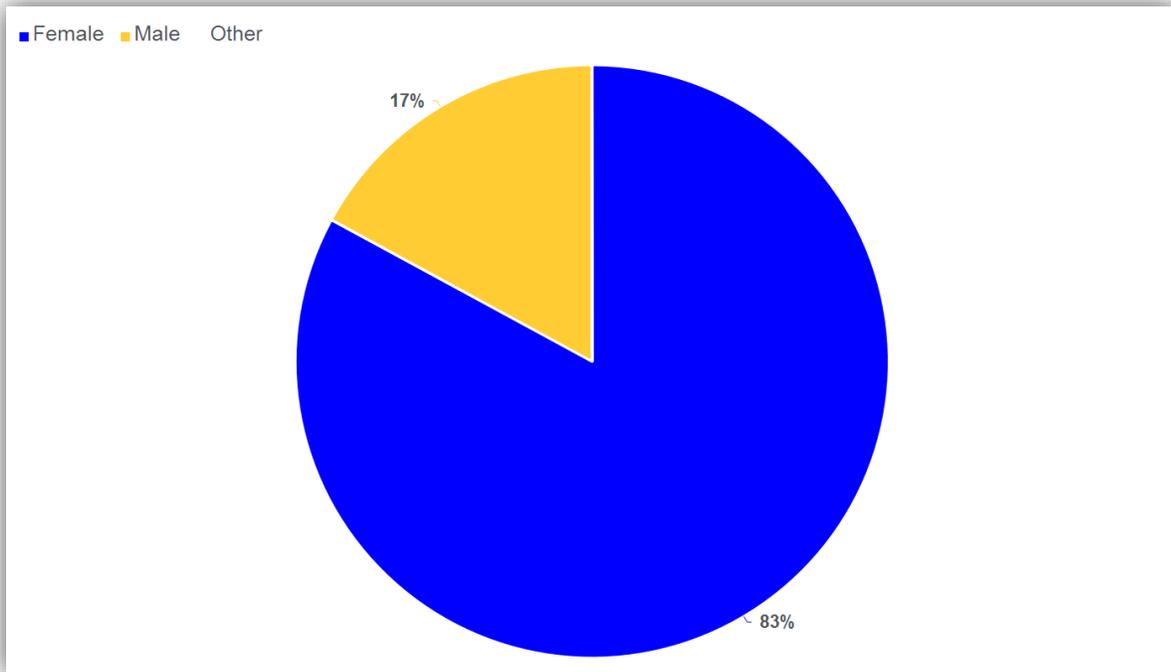
The following demonstrates data/chart results from ICCC's Community Needs Assessment/ Customer Satisfaction Survey.

What category below includes your age?
(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)



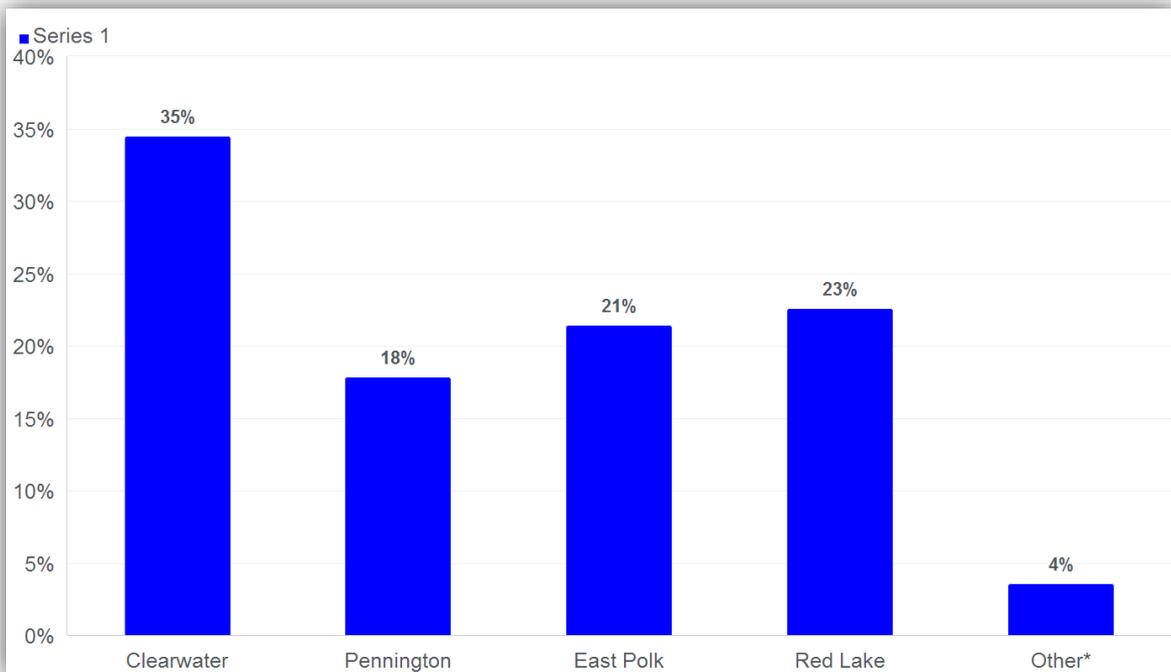
Your Gender:

(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)



What county do you live in?

(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)

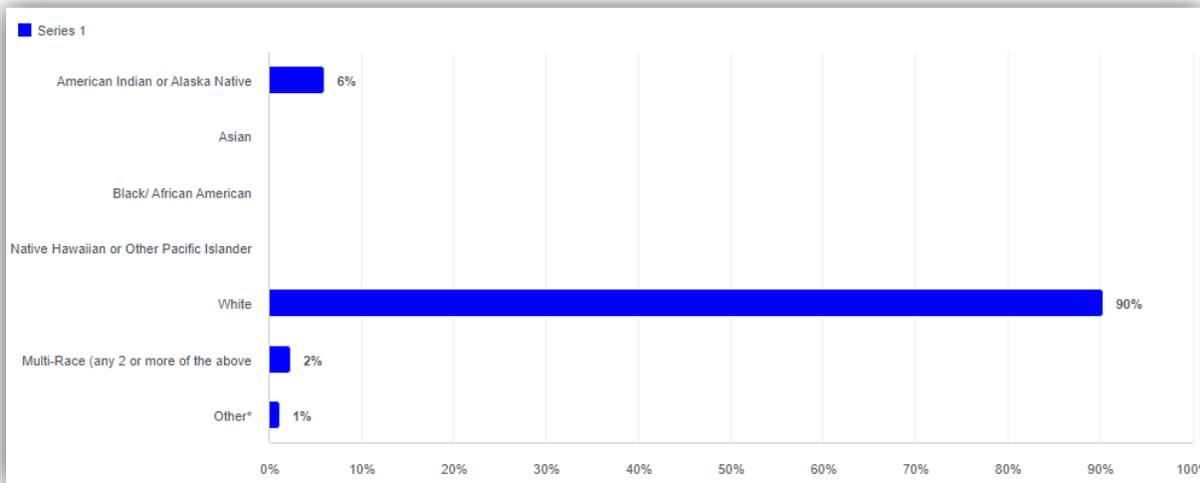


*If other, please specify:

Response		
I live in West Polk but I work in Red Lake. I am completing this survey for Red Lake County.		
West Polk ?		
		Total Responses
		2

Your Ethnic Background:

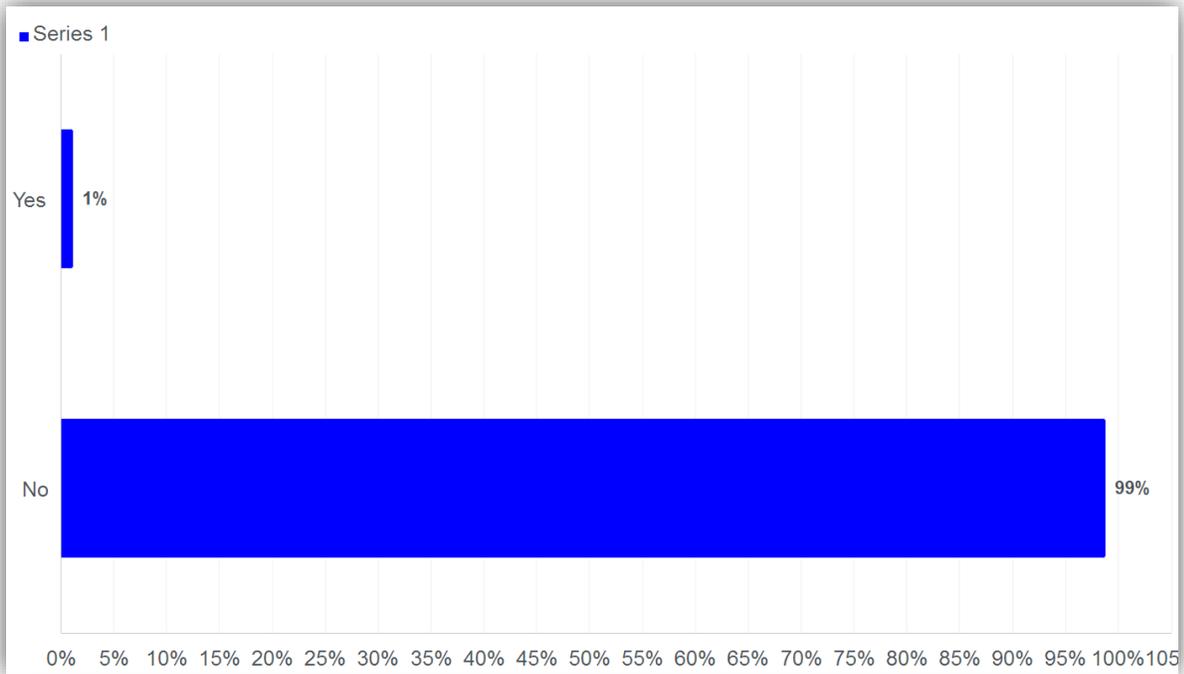
(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)



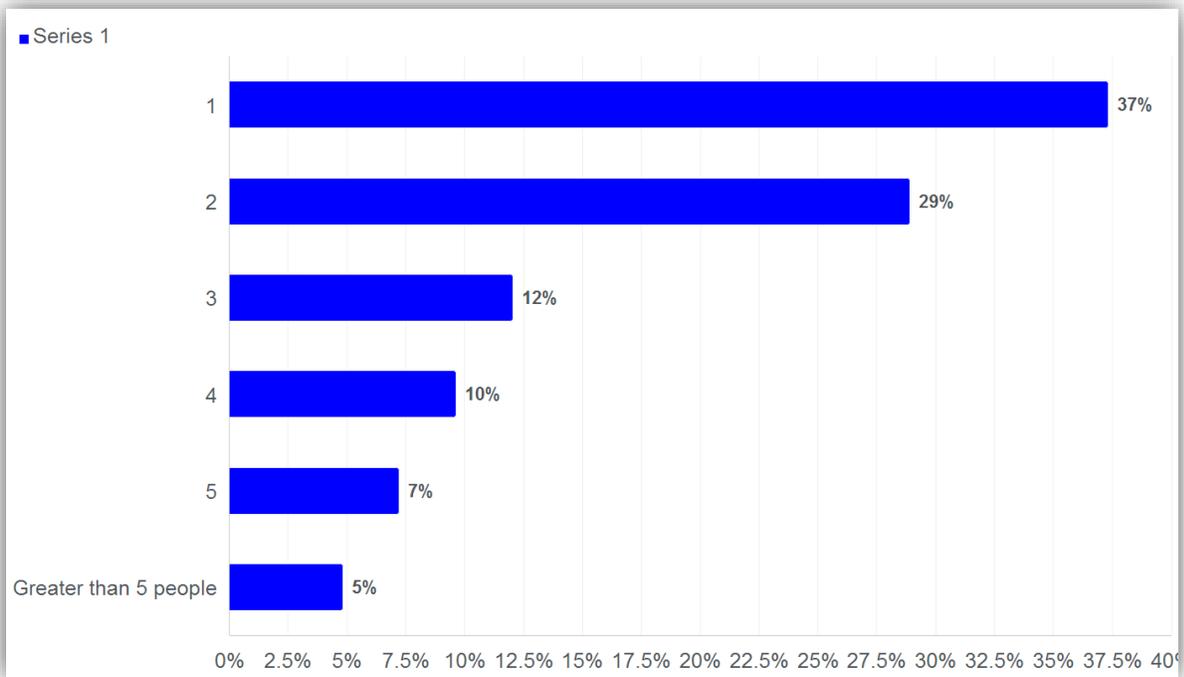
*If Other, please explain:

Response		
Hispanic		
		Total Responses
		1

Are you Hispanic and/or Latino?
(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)

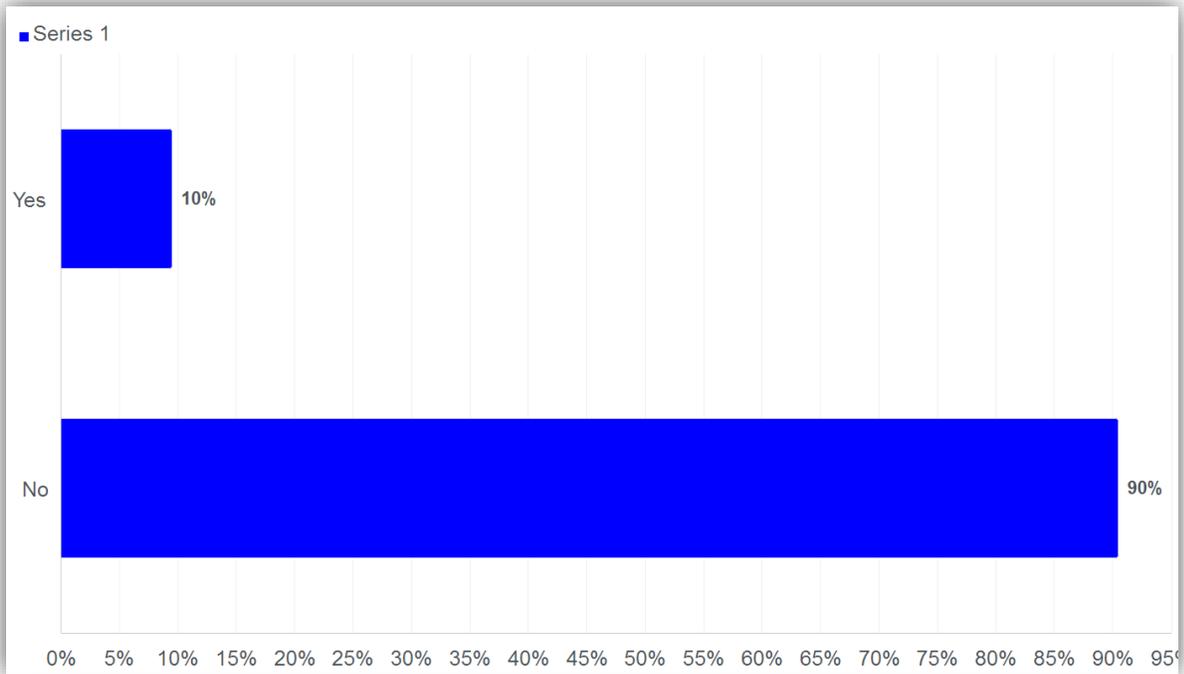


Number of people in your household, including yourself:
(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)



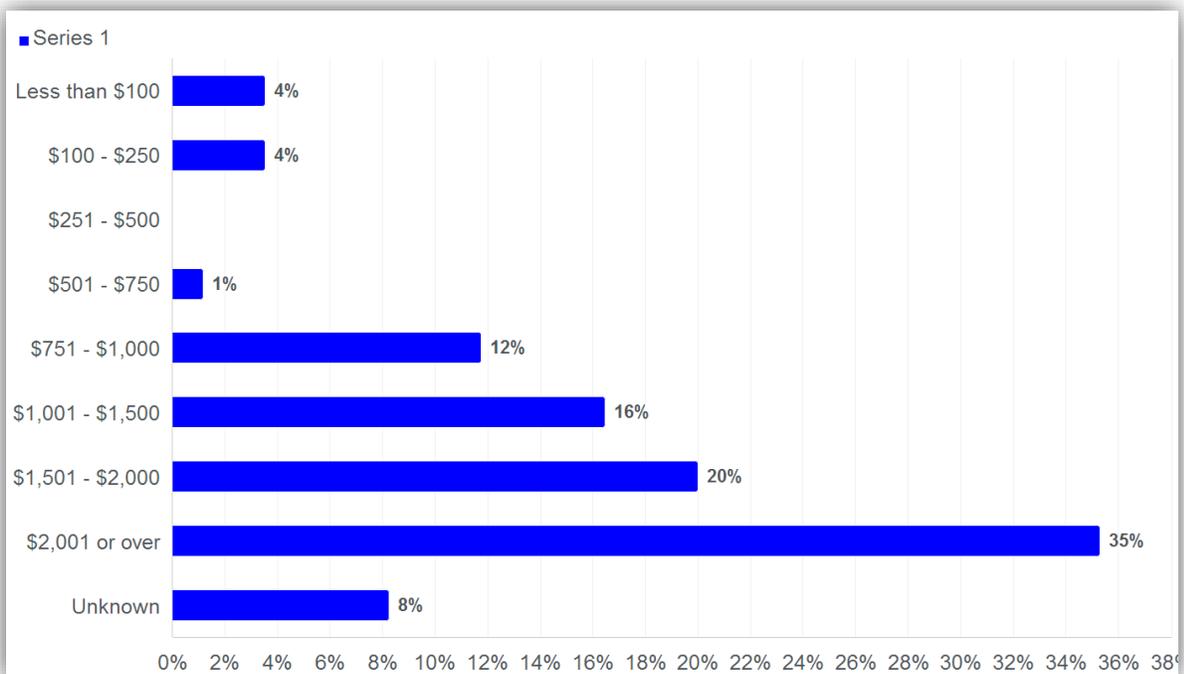
Are you a veteran or currently active in the military?

(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)



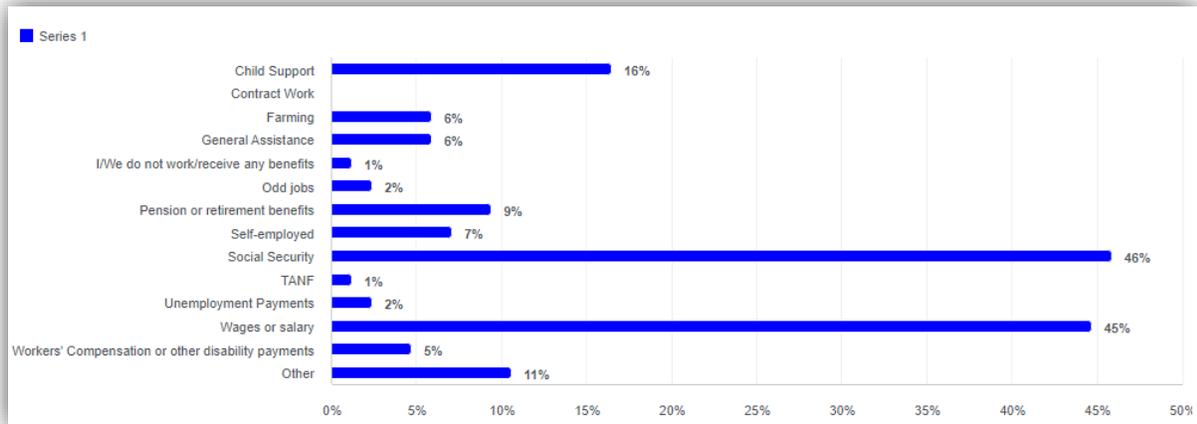
What is your monthly household income?

(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)



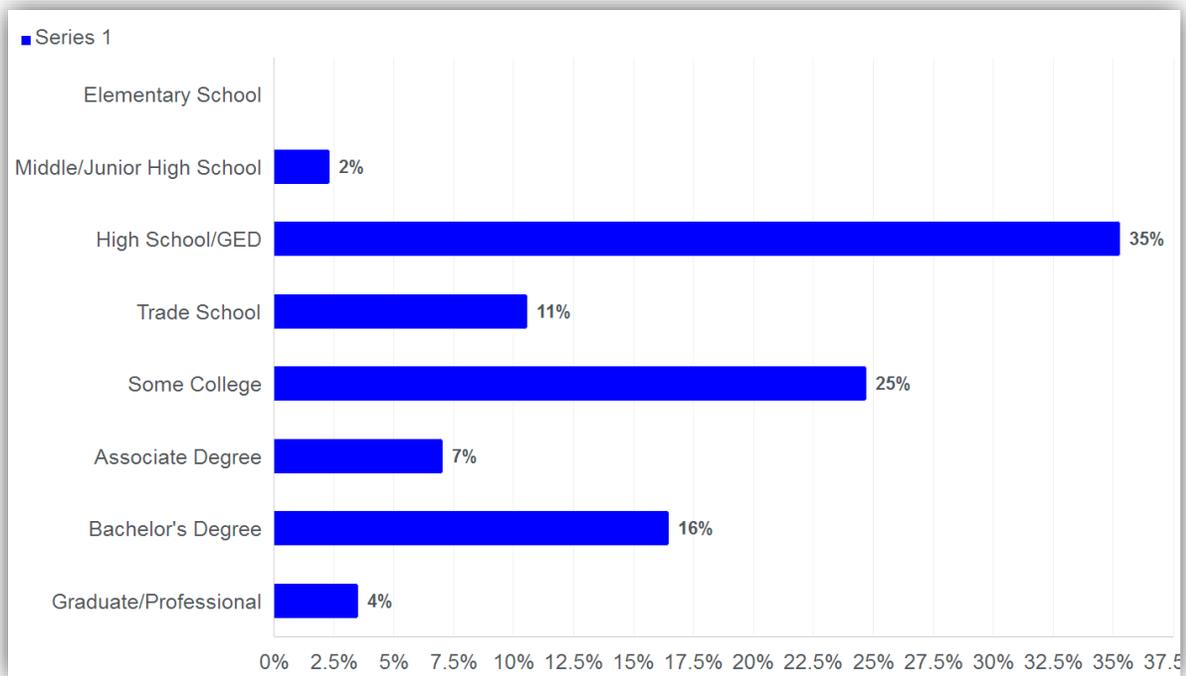
Sources of Household Income:

(Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)



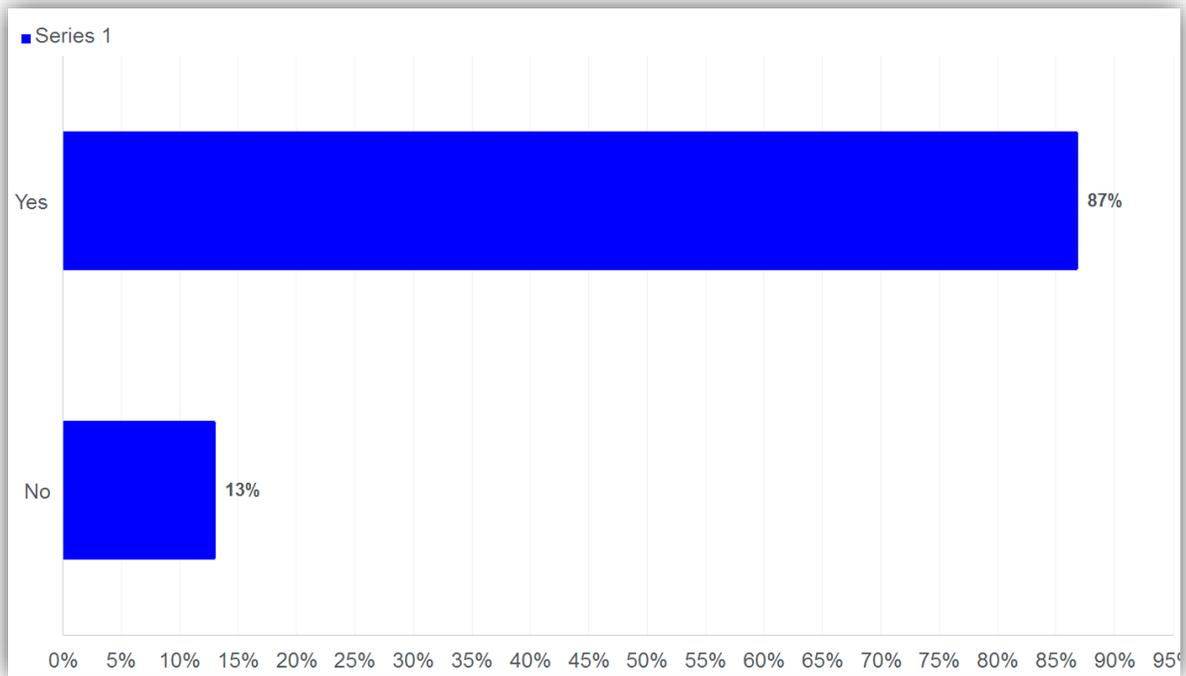
Highest level of education in your household:

(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)



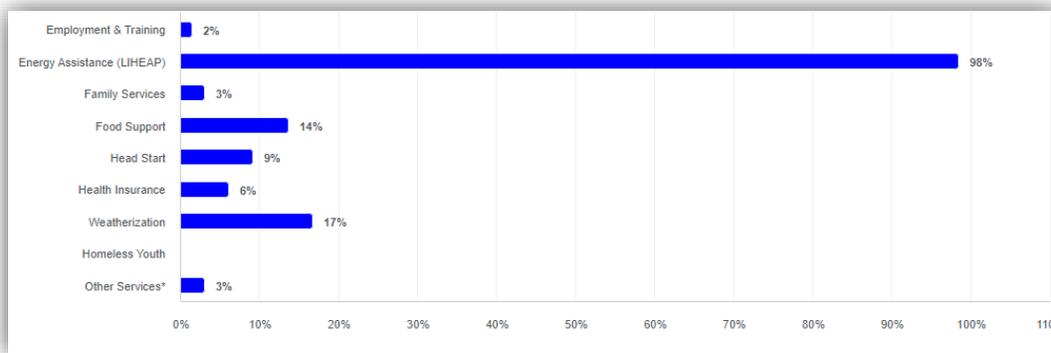
Do you currently or have you received services from ICCC?

(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)



Please select the service(s) you receive from our agency:

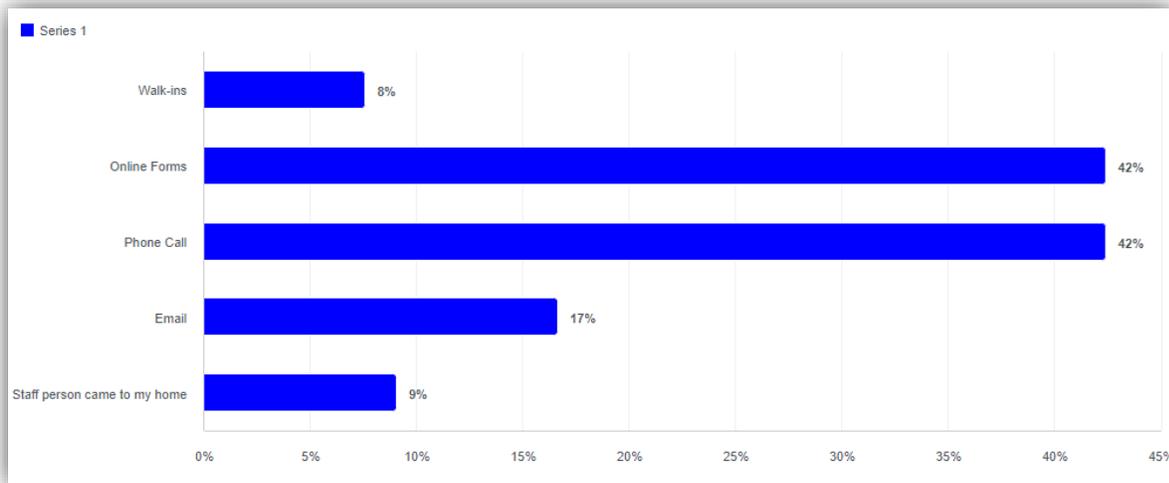
(Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)



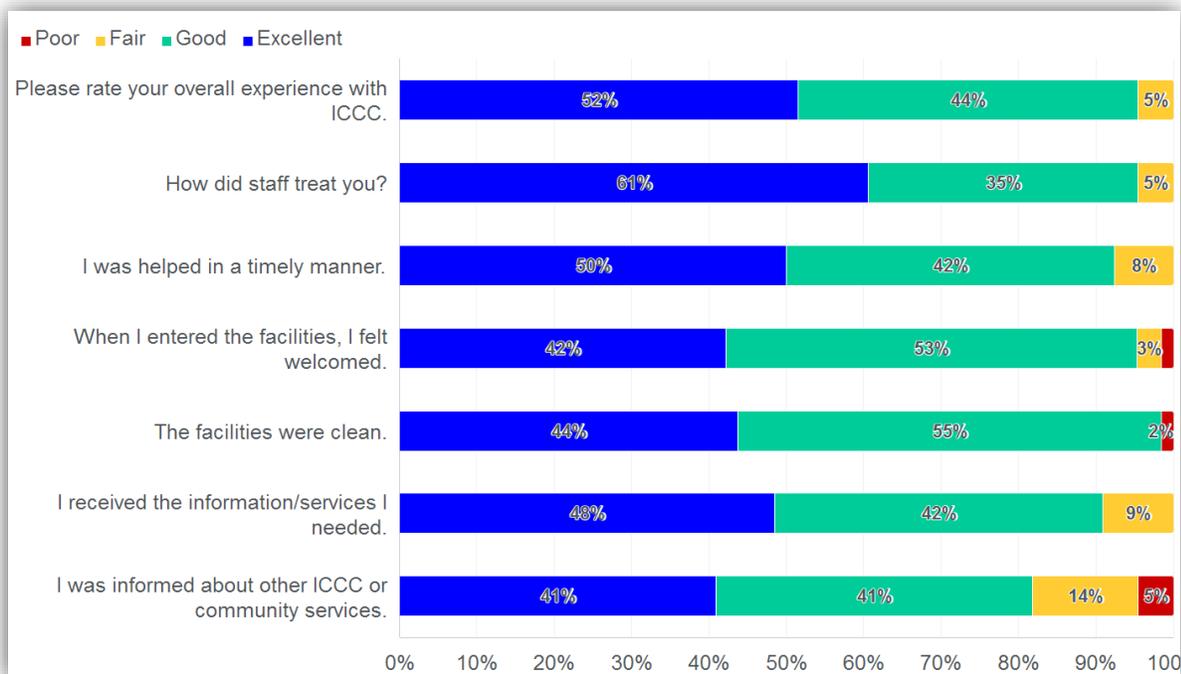
***If other services, please explain:**

Response	
Heating for home	
Total Responses	1

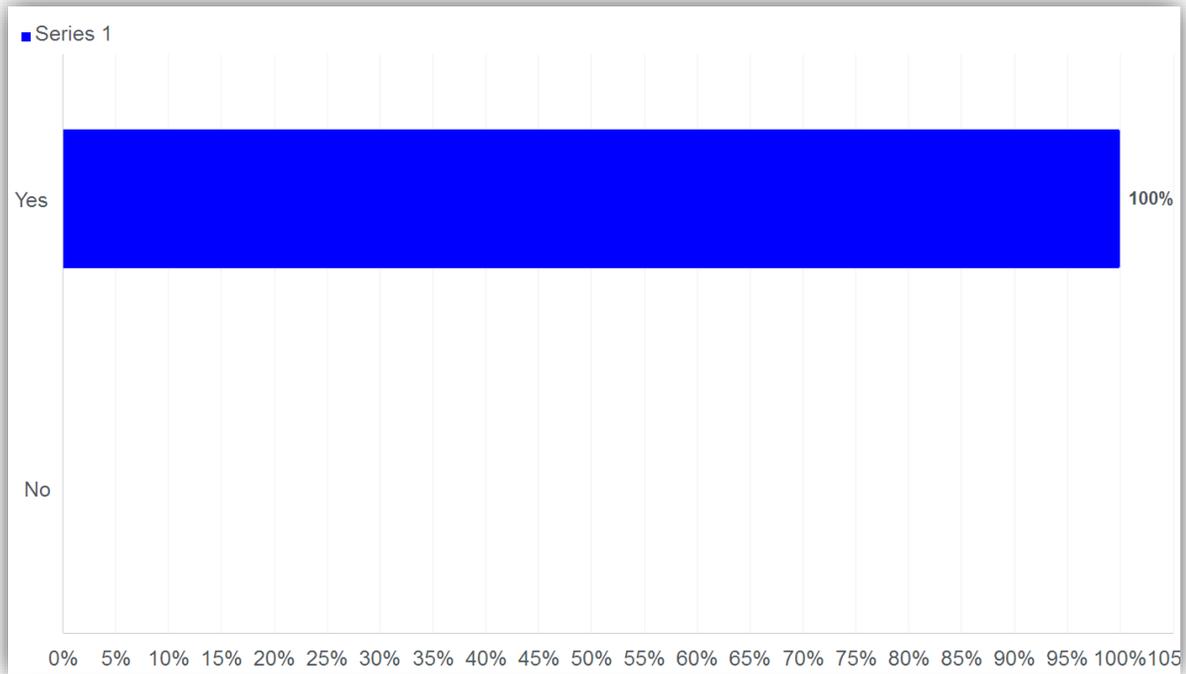
How did you/your family access these resources?
 (Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)



Choose the rating which best describes your overall experience:
 (Respondents could only choose a **single** response for each topic)



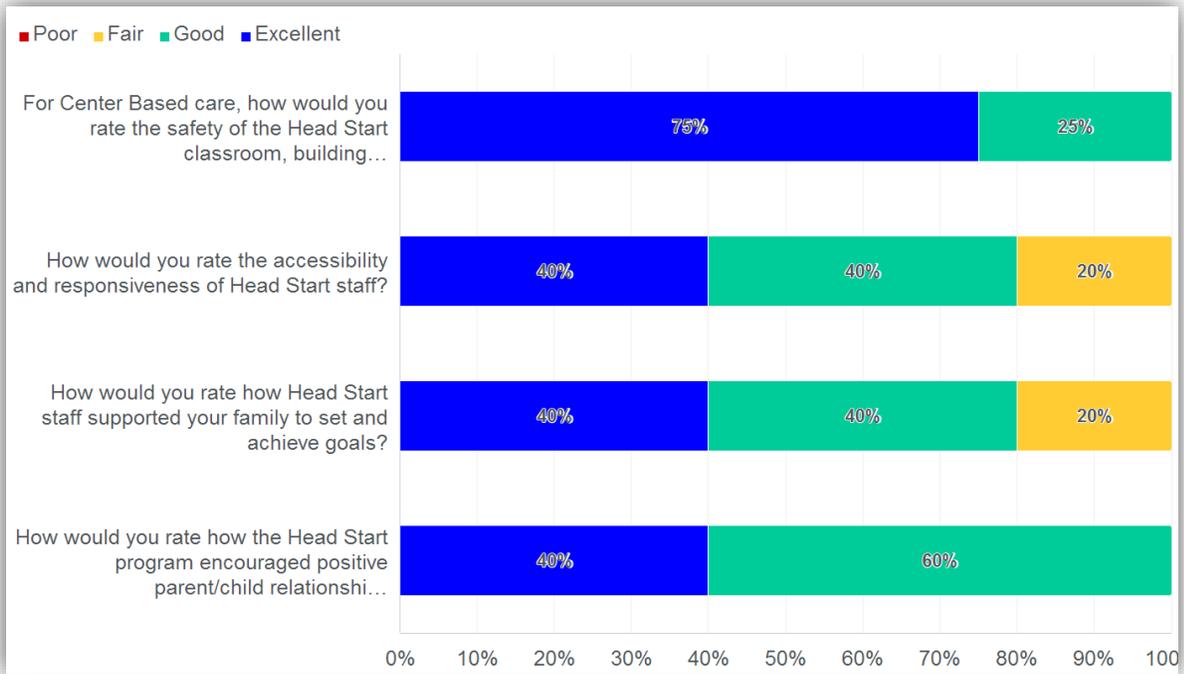
I would recommend ICCC to friends and family.
 (Respondents could only choose a **single** response)



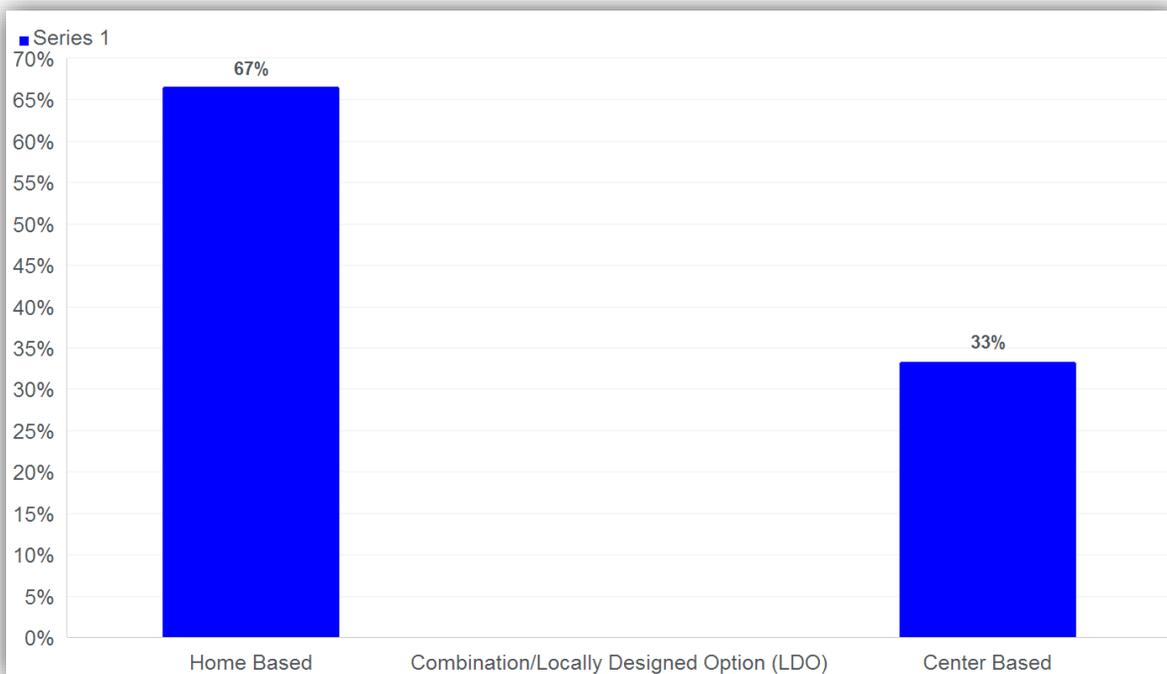
Do you have any recommendations to improve how we serve you? *Open-Ended Question*

Response
I would like to see consideration of the fuel assistance program help with cooling during the summers that have gotten increasingly hotter and more humid especially for those of us with asthma.
More information about programs and eligibility
Great staff of caring people, nothing needed
No
No
I asked about some roofing repairs and never heard back, it was a letter form I received in the mail I filled it out and returned it but never heard back.
None at this time
When we sign for energy assistance you should let us call in for oil refills.
No
Just appreciate any help available as on a fixed income is hard these days as prices go up. Thank you
Not enough information about other programs besides energy assistance.
Total Responses
11

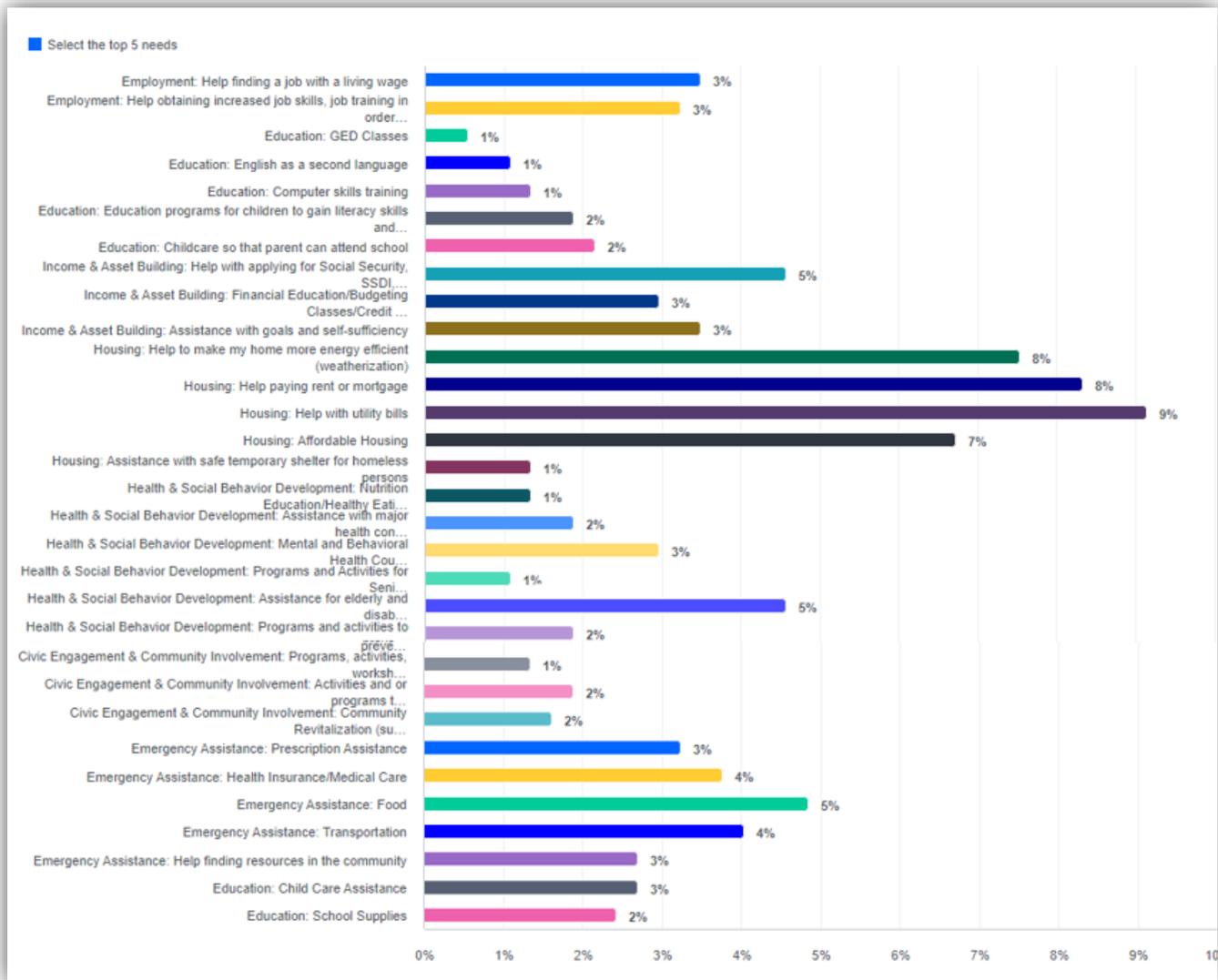
Please answer the following only if you have a child enrolled in the Head Start.
 (Respondents could only choose a **single** response for each topic)



Please select the Head Start program your child is enrolled in: (Select all that apply)
 (Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)



Please read each statement below and select the top five needs in your community.
 (Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses for each topic)

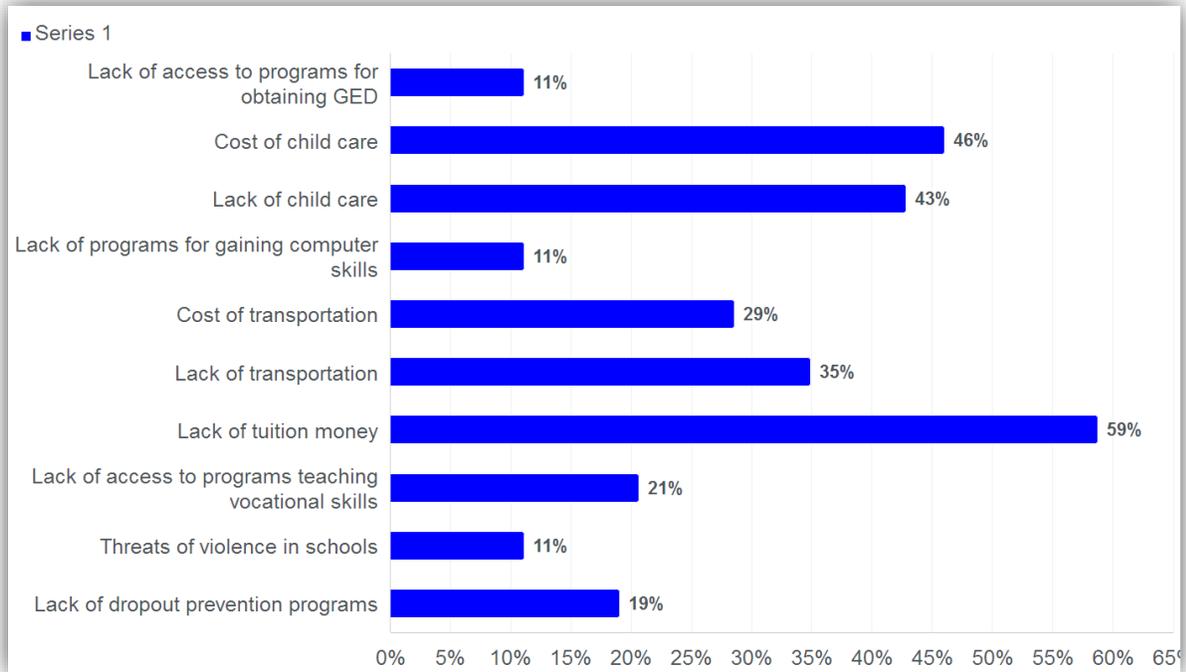


Please share any additional comments relating to the Greatest Needs (if any)

Response	
Transitioning from financial aid in a slower way and not all of a sudden	
Total Responses	1

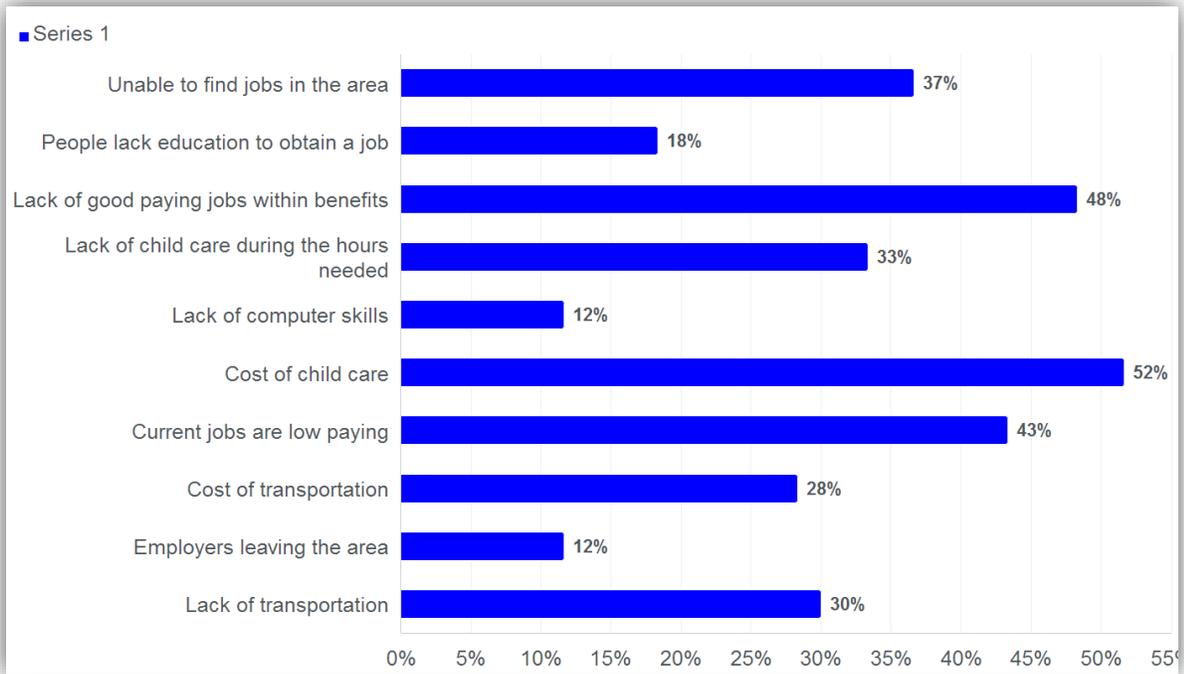
What do you feel influences access to higher education in your community?

(Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)



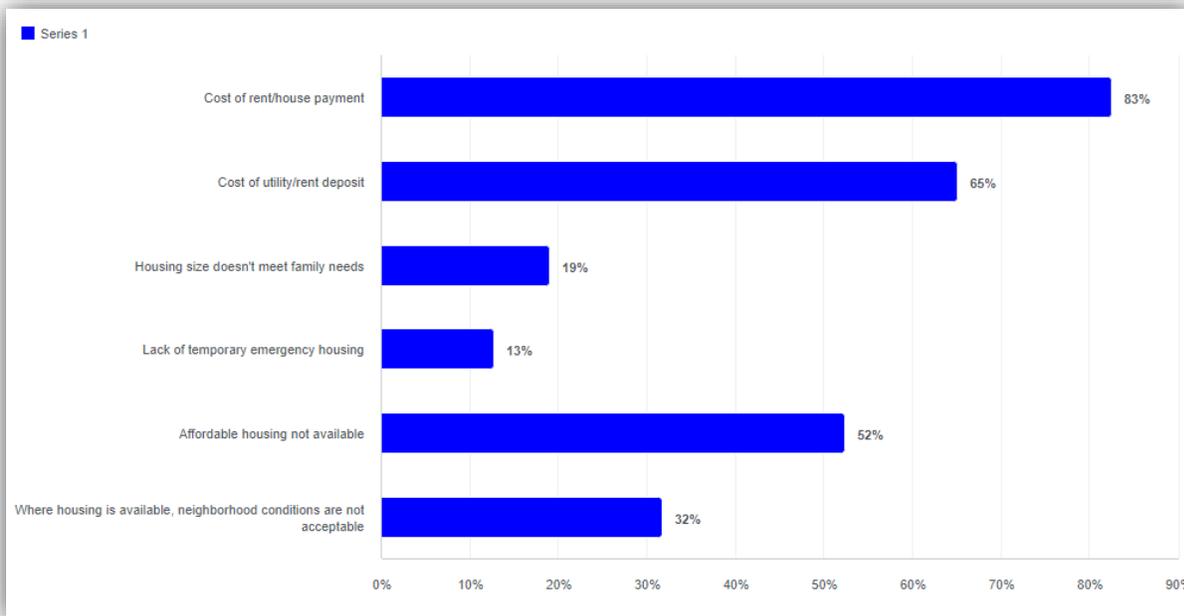
What do you feel influences access to employment in your community?

(Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)



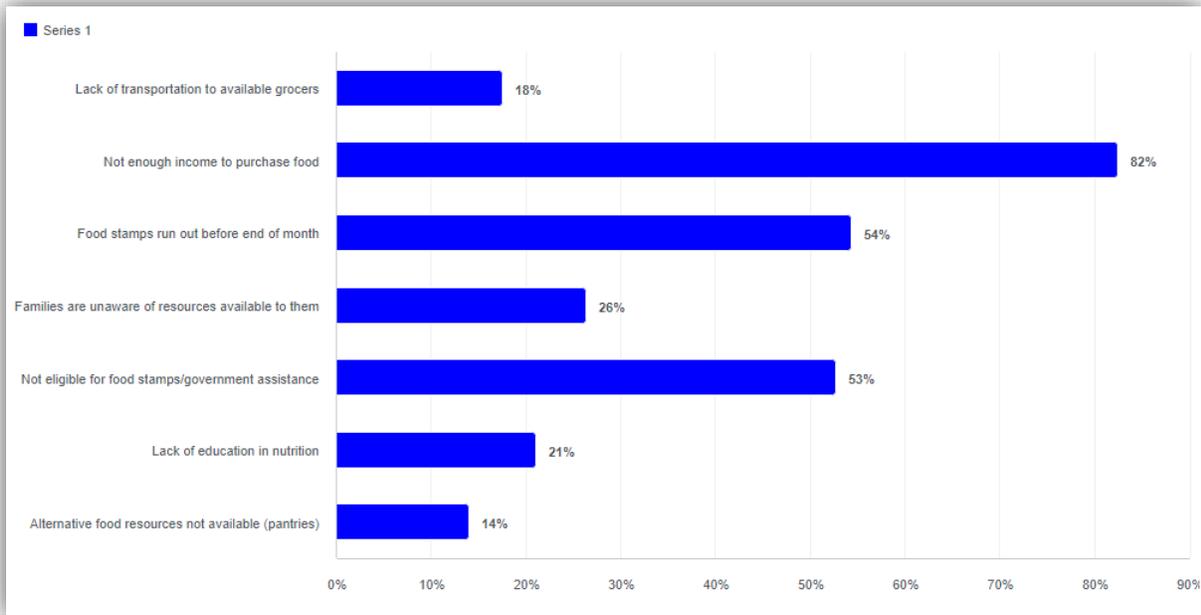
What do you feel influences access to adequate housing in your community?

(Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)



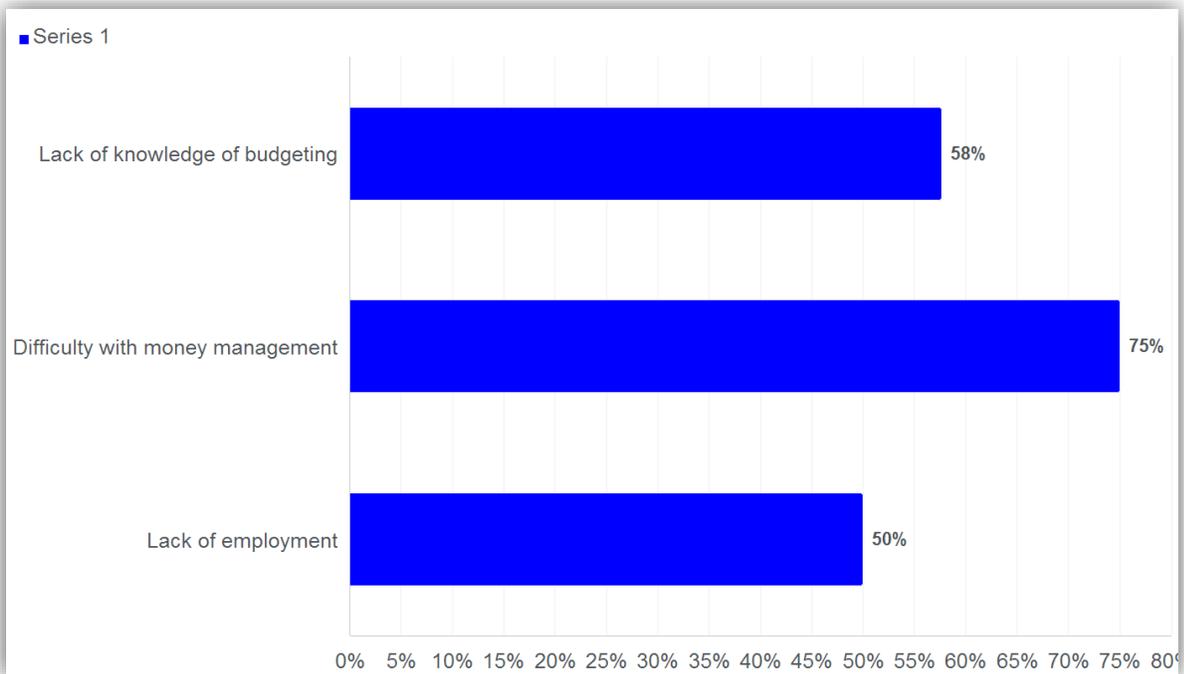
What do you feel influences access to nutritious foods in your community?

(Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)



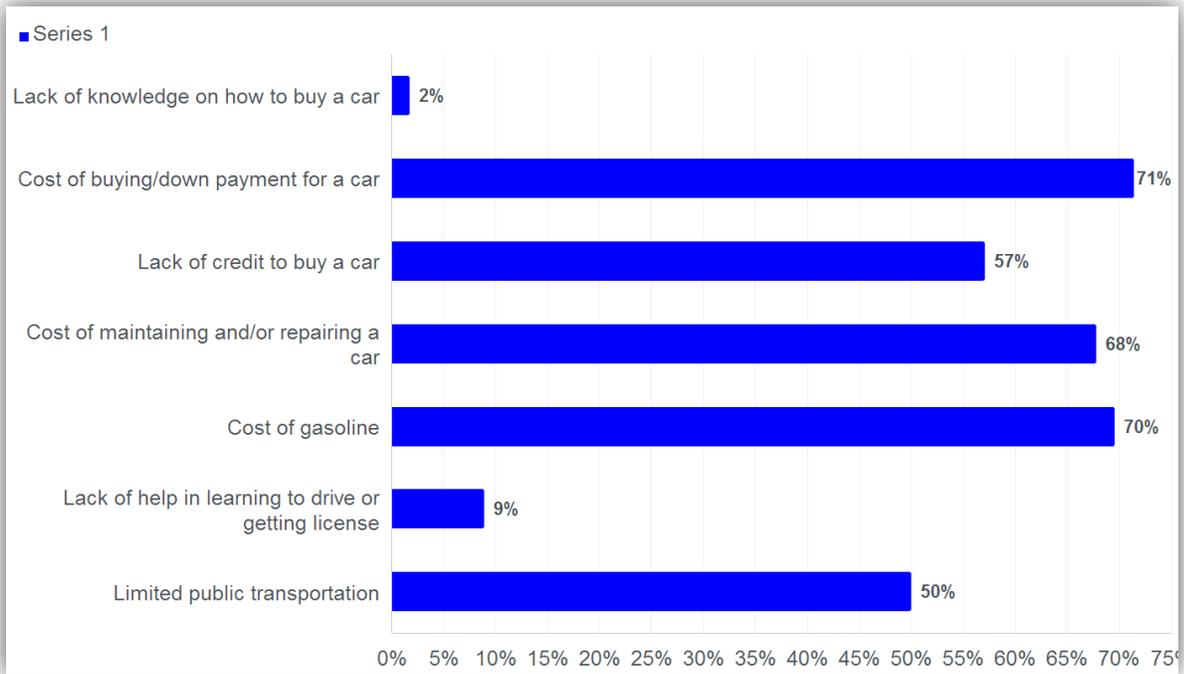
What do you feel influences income instability in your community?

(Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)



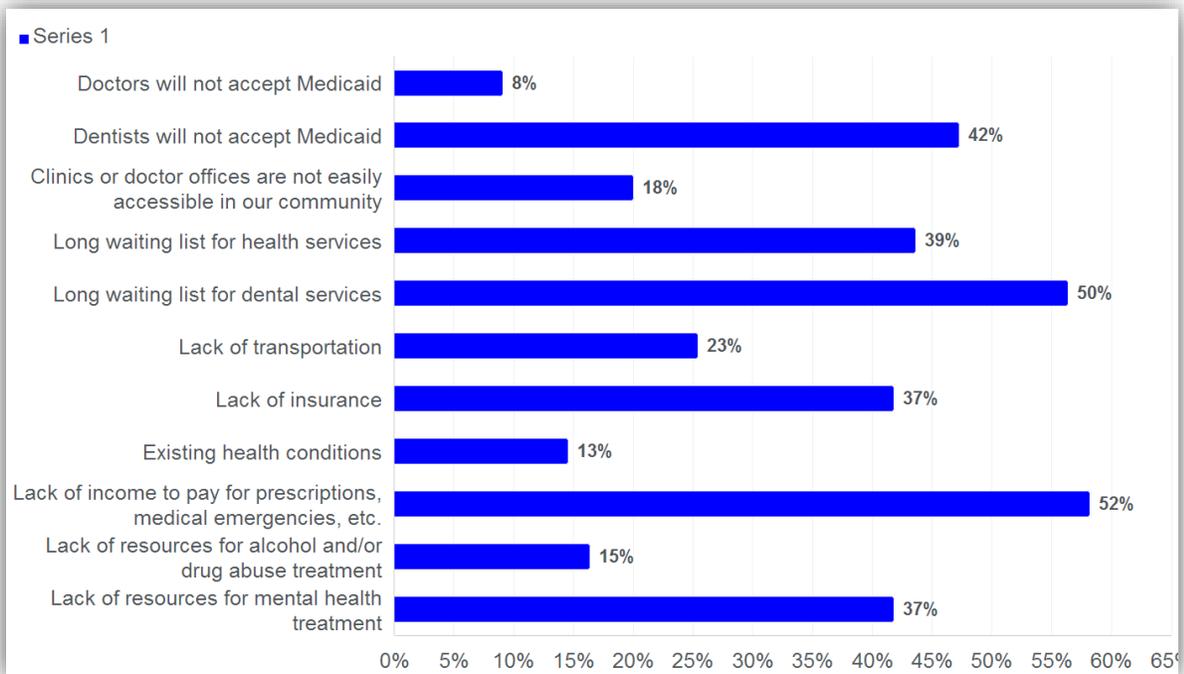
What do you feel influences access to transportation in your community?

(Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)



What do you feel influences access to quality health care in your community?

(Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)



Community Needs Survey Report

June 2024



Prepared for:



By:

WIPFLI

Background on Survey

In early 2024, Inter-County Community Council’s (ICCC) partnered with Wipfli LLP to conduct this year's community needs assessment. As part of the qualitative data gathering, Wipfli administered the Community Needs Survey during a Poverty Simulation event that the Agency hosted. The purpose of the survey was to gather insights from ICCC’s staff as well as members of the community that attended the event.

Total number of responses collected: 34

The following demonstrates data/chart results from ICCC’s Community Needs Survey.

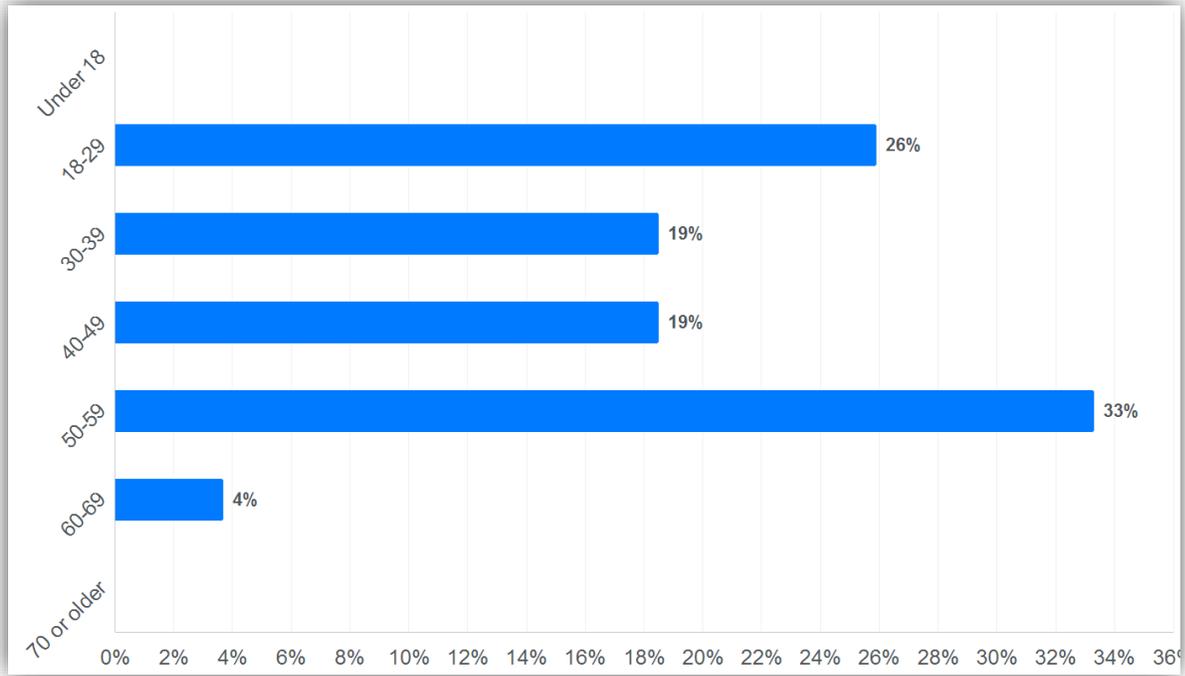
What city do you live in?

Response	
Oklee	Red lake falls
Thief River Falls	Grand Forks
Karlstad	Erskine
Fosston	Thief River Falla
Goodridge	Mentor
Thief River Falls	SAINT HILAIRE
Thief River Falls	Fosston
Plummer	Fosston
Goodridge	Thief River Falls
Thief River Falls	Thief River Falls
Gully, Mn	Bagley
Goodridge	Brooks
Trail	Clearbrook
Grand Forks	
Total Responses	27

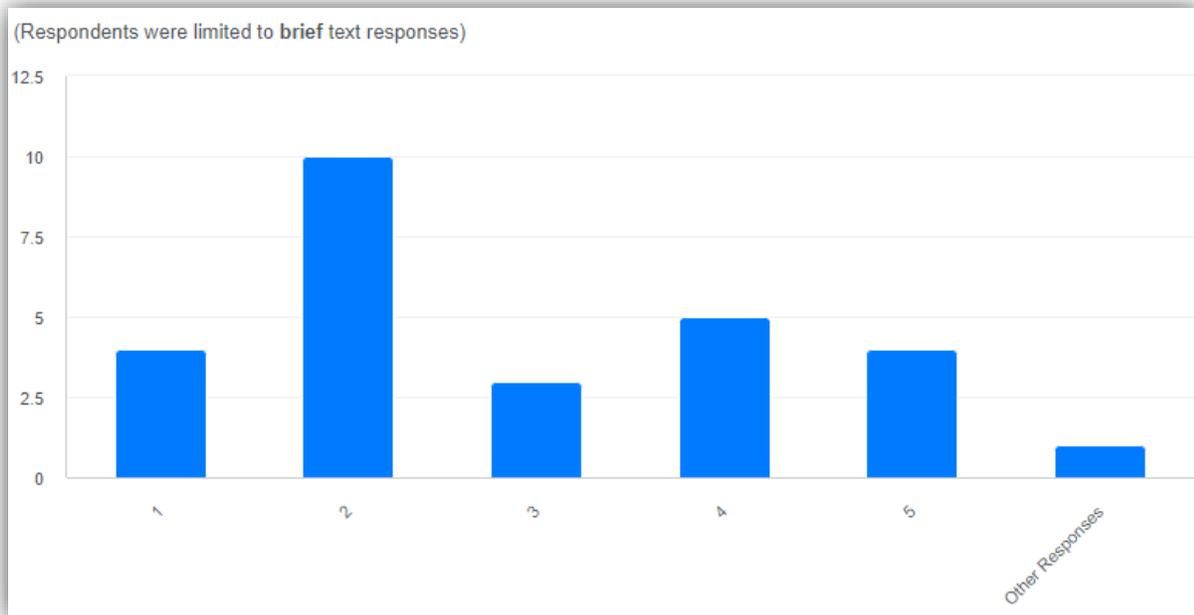
What county do you live in?

Response	
Red lake	Pennington
Pennington	Clearwater
Kittson	Red lake
Polk	Clearwater
Pennington	Polk
Pennington	Pennington
Pennington	Polk
Red Lake	Grand Forks but work in Polk
Pennington	Red lake county
Pennington	United States
Polk	Polk
Pennington	Pennington
Polk	Polk
Pennington	
Total Responses	27

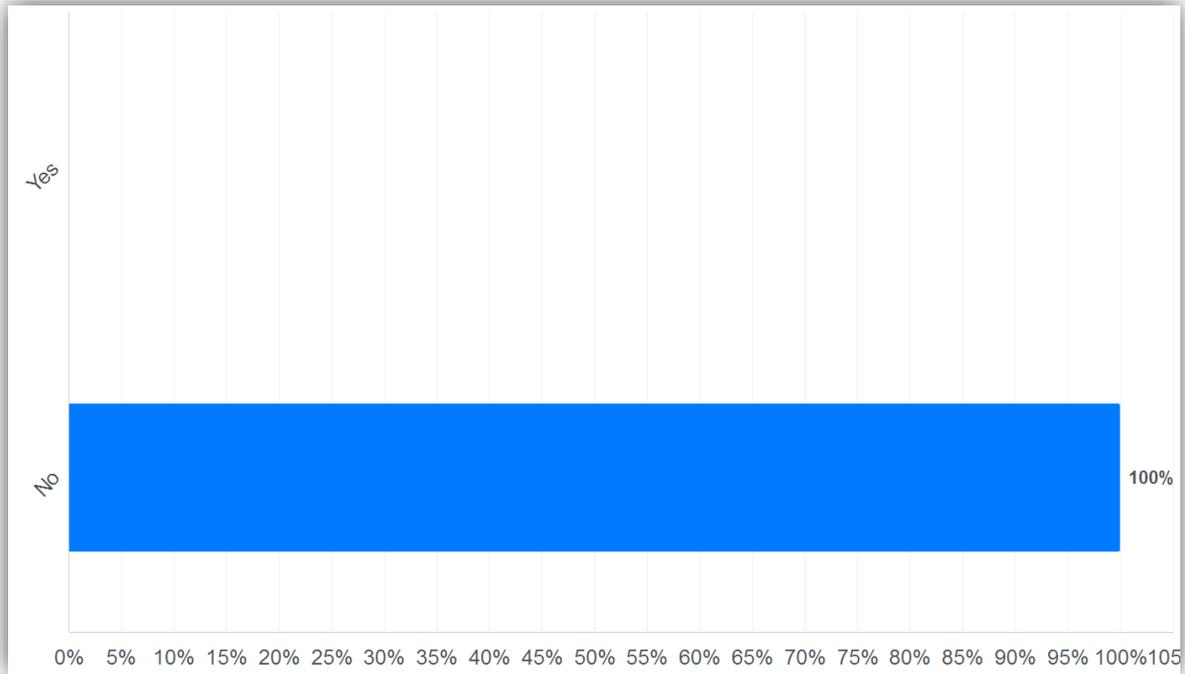
What category below includes your age?
(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)



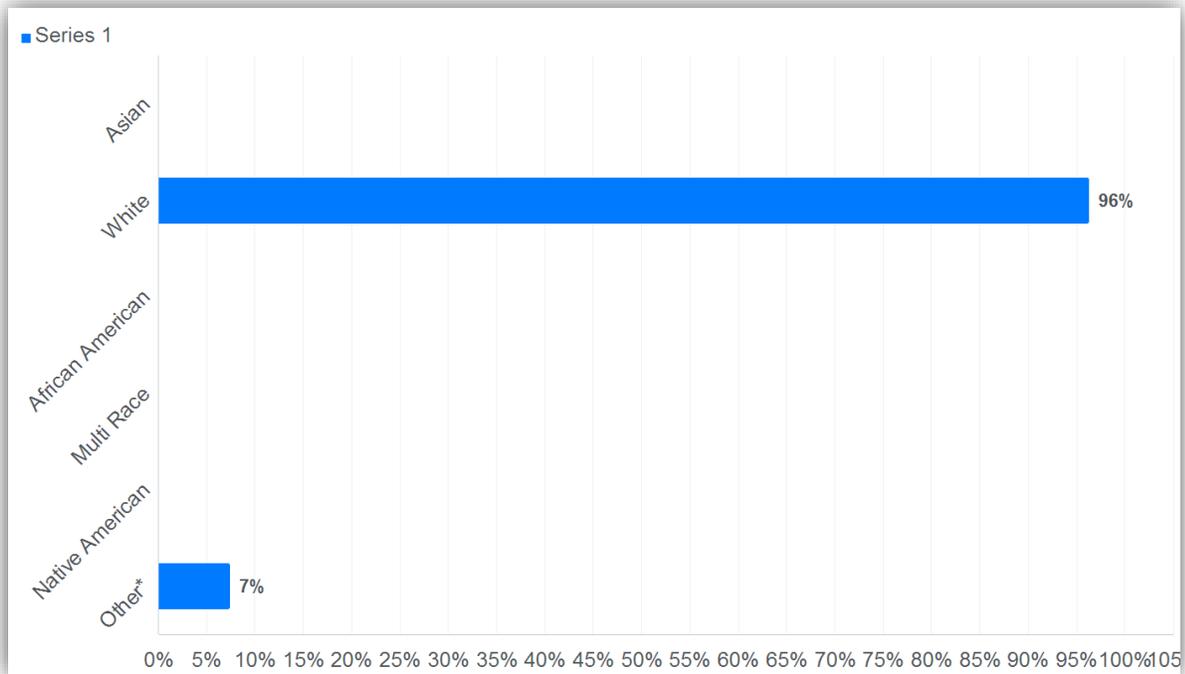
Household Size:



Are you a veteran or currently active in the military?
(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)



Race:
(Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)

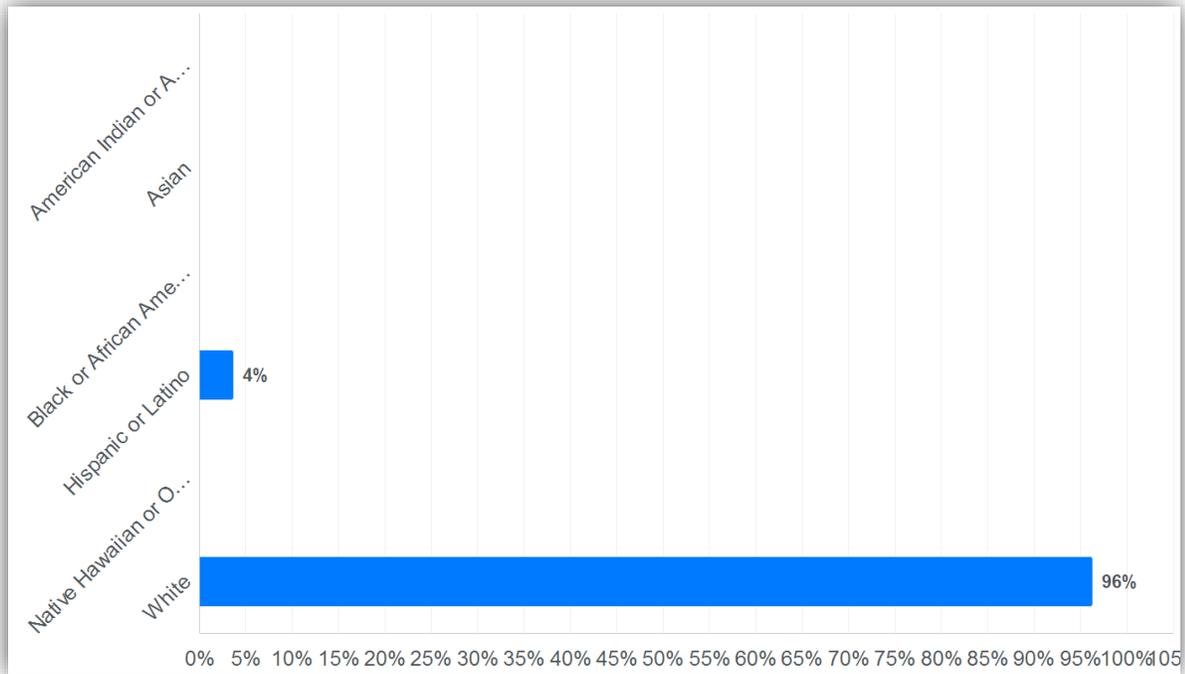


***If Other, please specify:**

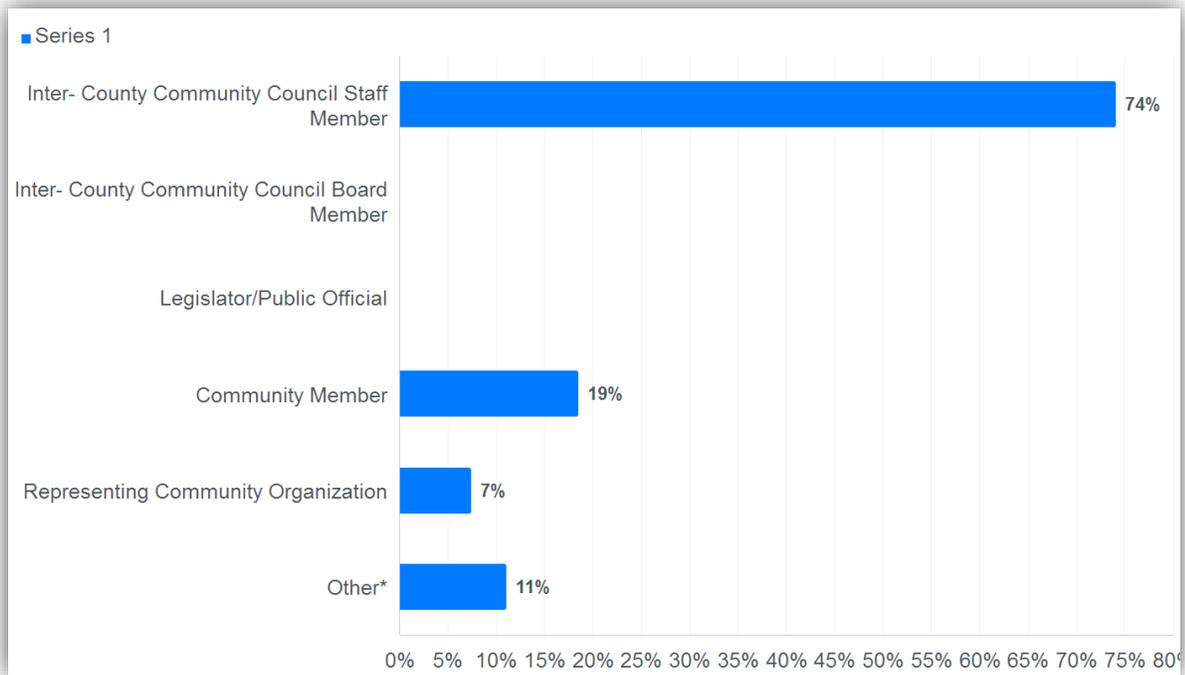
Response		
No		
Hispanic		
	Total Responses	2

Ethnicity:

(Respondents could only choose a **single** response)



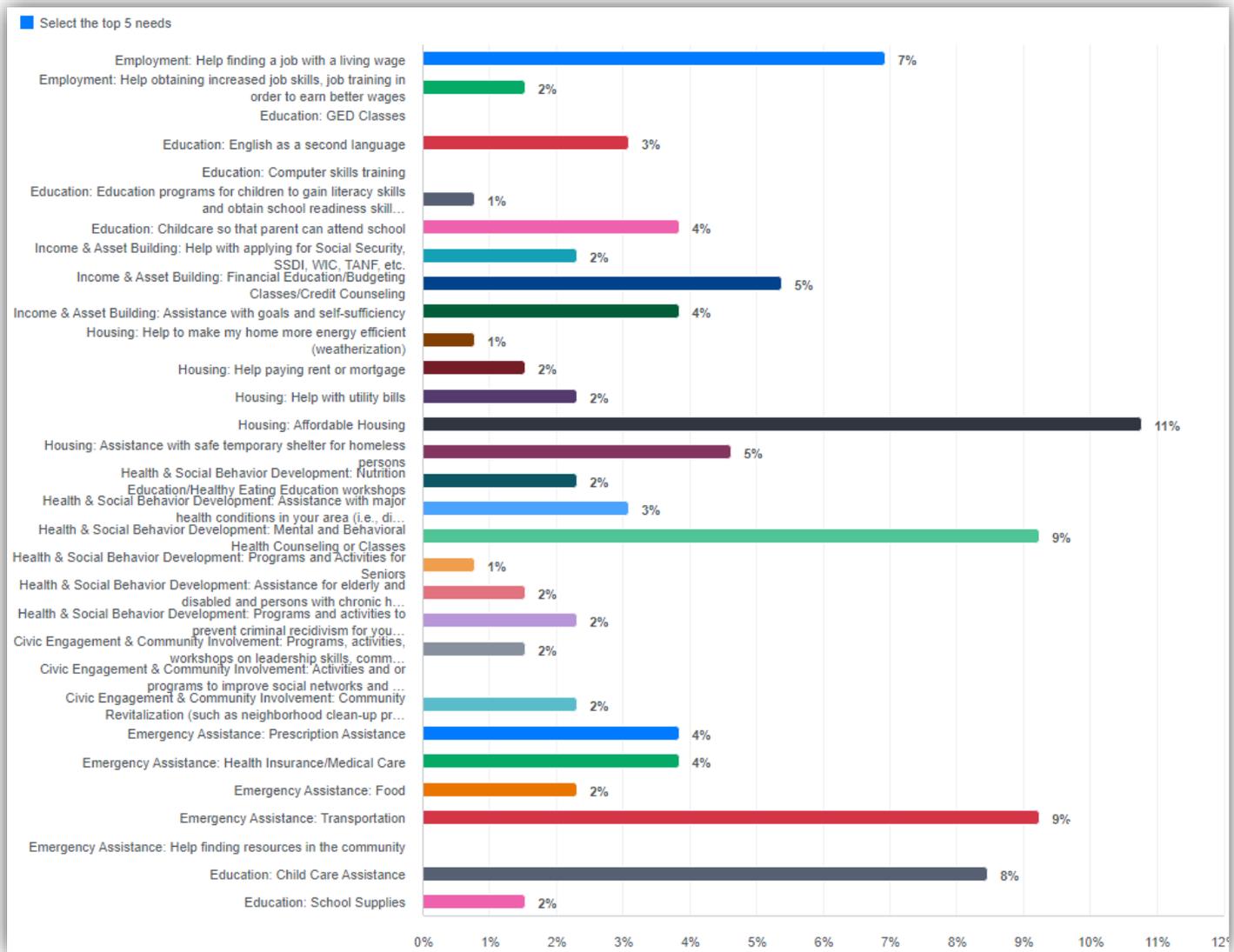
Please select all that best describe your role as it relates to Inter- County Community Council:
 (Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses)



If other, please specify:

Response	
High school	
Work at Tri-Valley Opportunity Council	
High School Special Education Teacher	
Total Responses	3

Please read each statement below and select the top five needs in your community.
 (Respondents were allowed to choose **multiple** responses for each topic)



Please share any additional comments relating to the Greatest Needs (if any)

Response	
Vehicle repair help	
Be more efficient with government funds, streamline and collaborate between agencies would help a lot.	
Community education classes about weather, procedures for going to Dr, importance of insurance, etc. for immigrants new to the area and country and might think that things are done the same way that they do in their country.	
	Total Responses 3