

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT LIVINGSTON COUNTY, NY

OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

2023



PREPARED BY

Catherine S. Apostoleris, NCRI



LIVINGSTON COUNTY, NY

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COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) PROGRAM

FISCAL YEAR 2023

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

BOARD ACCEPTANCE & AUTHORIZATION FORM

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY: Livingston County Community Initiatives Council

DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL: _____

CAA AUTHORIZATION

To the best of my knowledge, the information in this Community Needs Assessment Report is correct and has been reviewed and approved by the Livingston County Community Initiatives Council Board of Directors during a duly called meeting that occurred prior to submission of this document to the New York Department of State, Division of Community Services.

Director: _____ Date: _____

Board President: _____ Date: _____

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Livingston County Community Initiatives Council to allocate funding to delegate agencies to enable persons living in poverty to attain the skills, knowledge and resources necessary to help them secure the opportunities needed for economic stability.

***** Voted on and approved by the Board of Directors on August 3, 2023.***

I. Introduction

Since 1964 the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) has provided federal funding, coordinated through the states, to a network of over 1,000 public entities and private non-profit organizations or Community Action Agencies. Community Action Agencies provide direct services to low-income people and families to move them from poverty to economic stability (see <https://communityactionpartnership.com> for more information about the National Community Action Partnership).

In Livingston County, New York, CSBG funding is coordinated by the Livingston County Office of Workforce Development and the Community Initiatives Council. The Livingston County Community Initiatives Council (CIC) was created with the mission *to allocate funding to delegate agencies to enable persons living in poverty to attain the skills, knowledge and resources necessary to help them secure the opportunities needed for economic stability*. The Council consists of representatives from public, private, and low-income sectors of the community who are appointed by the Livingston County Board of Supervisors. CIC oversees the administration of the Community Services Block Grant funding that they allocate to diverse social services agencies around the County. In 2022, the Livingston County Office of Workforce Development and CIC distributed more than \$152,000 in CSBG funds to four local agencies. An additional \$250,000 in CSBG CARES was allocated to three local agencies.

By New York state law, officials from each of the 49 entities, public and private, that receive Community Services Block Grant funds are required to conduct a community needs assessment study every three years. In 2022/2023, the Livingston County Office of Workforce Development and CIC engaged a consultant, who is also a Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer, to assist in the completion of this needs assessment process.

The 2022-2023 Livingston County Community Needs Assessment blends secondary data from local, state, and federal sources as well as other reports compiled by and for Livingston County with primary data collected through a Community Needs Survey to create a picture of the region with respect to the needs of residents', particularly those with limited income. The Community Needs Assessment also includes information about the assets and resources community members identify as critical to ensuring opportunity for all.

1. Population Profile

The purpose of the Population Profile is to describe the County's current population with an emphasis on residents living in poverty. The Population Profile looks at current demographic information as well as historic population trends. When relevant, County findings are compared to Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties (i.e., the GLOW Region) as well as to New York State and the nation.

2. Community Survey

The purpose of the Livingston County Community Needs Survey is to examine how County residents think about local poverty - both in their own households and in the community. The Community Needs Survey was conducted during the Winter of 2022/2023. One comprehensive survey was utilized to reach all sectors of the community, including recipients of services and programming funded with CSBG dollars, community members at-large, and key stakeholders such as representatives from private community-based organizations, local officials, the faith-based community, and educational institutions. The survey was developed in SurveyMonkey and made available online from January to February 2023. Notifications of the survey's availability were published on the Livingston County website and announced through a press release sent to all local media outlets. The survey link, as well as paper

versions of the survey, were distributed via the four current CIC-funded delegate agencies and through Livingston County departments.

3. CIC Funded Program Utilization and Customer Satisfaction Data

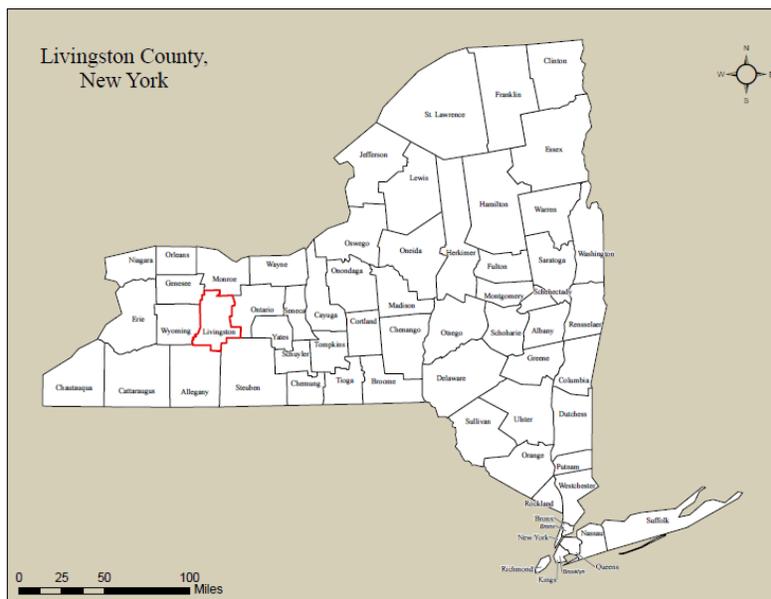
The purpose of reviewing CIC-funded program utilization and customer satisfaction data is to better understand how Community Services Block Grant funding is currently being used locally and to paint a picture of the impact the federal investment is having on Livingston County residents. A review of utilization and customer satisfaction data helps stakeholders understand whether funded services are helping CIC to achieve its mission of moving people toward economic stability.

II. Population Profile

For over 25 years, Livingston County and the Community Initiatives Council (CIC) have partnered with the New York State Department of State to allocate Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding to diverse social services agencies across the County. CIC’s mission is to *allocate funding to delegate agencies to enable persons living in poverty to attain the skills, knowledge and resources necessary to help them secure the opportunities needed for economic stability*. To do that, CIC holds a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process which seeks to put CSBG funding in the hands of local community-based organizations whose work aligns with the shared anti-poverty mission of CIC and CSBG. CIC is aided in this RFP process by a strong understanding of the County’s residents and the characteristics that make it challenging for individuals and families, particularly those with low income, to thrive.

A. Basic Demographics

Geography & History: CIC’s Service Area includes the entire county of Livingston County, NY, which is in



the western portion of the state. Livingston County is bordered to the west by Genesee and Wyoming Counties, to the east by Ontario County, to the south by Allegany and Steuben Counties, and to the north by Monroe County. Livingston County’s seat, Geneseo, is approximately 63 miles east of Buffalo and 35 miles south of Rochester, New York’s second and third largest cities, respectively.

Livingston County includes the 17 towns of:

- Avon
- Caledonia
- Conesus
- Geneseo
- Groveland
- Leicester
- Lima
- Livonia
- Mount Morris
- North Dansville
- Nunda
- Ossian
- Portage
- Sparta
- Springwater
- West Sparta
- York



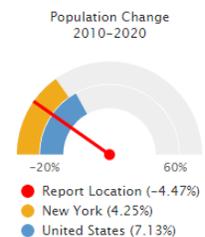
There are no cities in Livingston County, though, there are 9 villages: Village of Avon, Village of Conesus, Village of Dansville, Village of Geneseo, Village of Leicester, Village of Lima, Village of Livonia, Village of Mount Morris, and Village of Nunda.

Livingston County is known for its natural beauty, rich history, and Native American heritage. Livingston County is primarily an agricultural region with wide open spaces and two Finger Lakes: Conesus, one of the smaller lakes, and Hemlock, the only as-of-yet undeveloped lake. Hemlock serves as a water source for the City of Rochester. Livingston County is also home to Letchworth State Park, which runs north south on Livingston County’s border with Wyoming County. Letchworth State Park follows the course of the Genesee River and is often referred to as “The Grand Canyon of the East.” Livingston County, as part of the land between Seneca Lake and Lake Erie, was home to the Seneca Nation of Indians, one of the most powerful tribes of the Six Nations of Iroquois.¹

Total Population: According to the 2020 Census, the total population of Livingston County is 61,834. This represents a 5.44% **decrease** from 2010. This decrease is in keeping with the greater GLOW region (i.e., Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming counties) which saw a 4.47% decrease in that same period. However, it contrasts with the state of New York, which saw an overall increase in population from 2010 to 2020 of 4.25%.

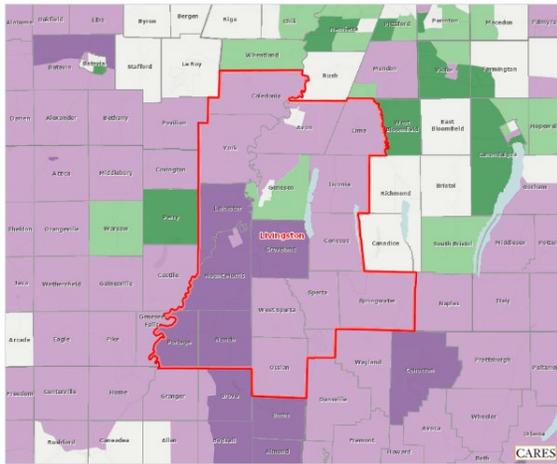
Population Change, 2010-2020

Report Area	Total Population, 2010 Census	Total Population, 2020 Census	Population Change, 2010-2020	Population Change, 2010-2020, Percent
Report Location(GLOW)	210,510	201,096	-9,414	-4.47%
Genesee County, NY	60,079	58,388	-1,691	-2.81%
Livingston County, NY	65,393	61,834	-3,559	-5.44%
Orleans County, NY	42,883	40,343	-2,540	-5.92%
Wyoming County, NY	42,155	40,531	-1,624	-3.85%
New York	19,378,088	20,201,249	823,161	4.25%
United States	312,471,161	334,735,155	22,263,994	7.13%



Source: US Census Bureau. US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2020 via NYSCAA Data Hub.

¹ Wikipedia contributors. (2019, January 20). Livingston County, New York. In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved 13:29, December 30, 2022, at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Livingston County, New York&oldid=879366709>

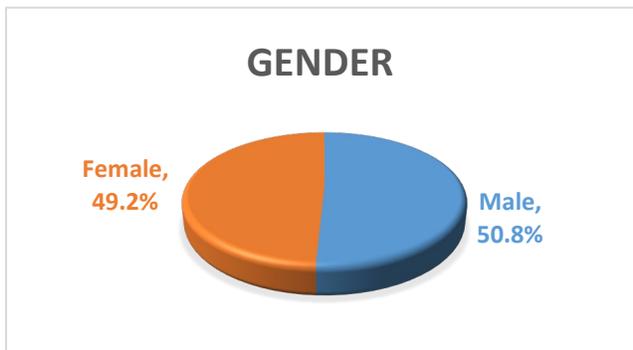


Population Change, Percent by Tract, US Census 2010 - 2020

- Over 10.0% Increase (+)
- 2.0 - 10.0% Increase (+)
- Less Than 2.0% Change (+/-)
- 2.0 - 10.0% Decrease (-)
- Over 10.0% Decrease (-)
- No Population or No Data

Per the map to the left, the only community within Livingston County which saw an increase in population during the ten years from 2010-2020 was Geneseo (8.0%), the most urban of the County’s towns and villages. The west and southwestern most communities of Livingston County (i.e., Leicester, Mount Morris, Groveland, Portage, and Nunda) saw the greatest decreases in population (i.e., all over 10%) from 2010 to 2020.

Gender: The population of Livingston County is almost exactly half males and half females, with slightly more males than females (i.e., 50.8% vs. 49.2%). This gender distribution is in contrast to the state



where more females live than males (i.e., 48.8% male and 51.2% female), but consistent with the GLOW Region as a whole (i.e., 51.1% male and 48.9% female).

Source: US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2017-2021, 5yr. Table DP05.

One possible reason for the greater number of males in the region is the presence of four correctional facilities for males: Groveland Correctional Facility in Groveland; Attica and Wyoming Correctional Facilities in Wyoming County; and Orleans Correctional Facility in Orleans County. Together these facilities have an average daily population of approximately 4,000 males²³⁴⁵ who,

²New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, PREA Facility Audit Report for Groveland Correctional Facility, November 2022. Accessed December 30, 2022 at:

<https://doccs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/12/groveland-cf-prea-audit-report-final-11.7.2022.pdf>

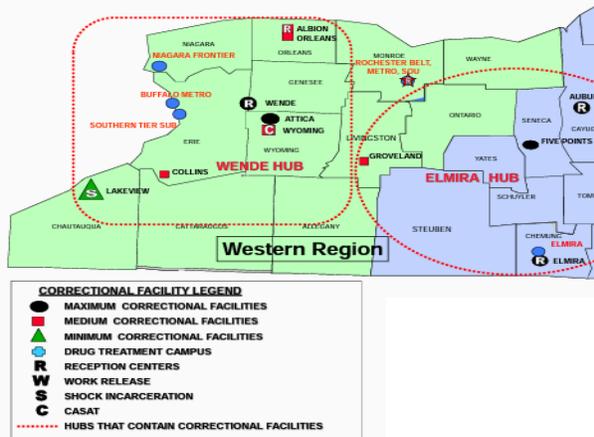
³ New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, PREA Facility Audit Report for Orleans Correctional Facility June 2021. Accessed December 30, 2022 at:

<https://doccs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/07/orleans-correctional-facility-final-prea-audit-report-2021.pdf>

⁴ New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, PREA Facility Audit Report for Attica Correctional Facility, March 2020. Accessed December 30, 2022 at:

<https://doccs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/attica-correctional-facility-final-prea-audit-report-3.15.2020.pdf>

⁵ New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, PREA Facility Audit Report for Wyoming Correctional Facility, September 2020. Accessed December 30, 2022 at:

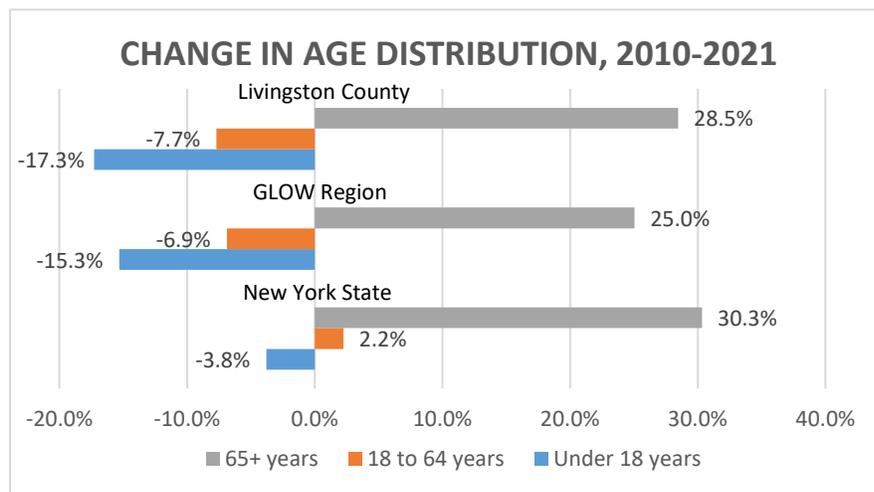


due to the Census Bureau’s Usual Residence Rule, are counted as residents of the GLOW region even if they do not live here when they are not incarcerated.⁶

It is important to mention that the region also houses one of the only female correctional facilities in New York State, Albion Correctional Facility in Orleans County. This medium security prison has an average daily population of approximately 617 females.⁷

Source: New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. Facility Map 11-1-22. Accessed December 30, 2022 at: <https://doccs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/09/facility-map-11-1-22.pdf>

Age: Livingston County has an aging population. Between 2010 and 2021, the number of residents in every age group, except for Older Adults (i.e., those “65 Years+”), declined. That is, while the Older Adult population grew by 28.5% from 2010 to 2021, the Youth population (i.e., those “Under 18 Years”)



declined by 17.3% and the Adult population (i.e., those “18 to 64 Years”) declined by 7.7%.

Source: US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2017-2021, 5yr. Table DP05.

This pattern of change in the age distribution, with younger age groups declining and older age groups increasing, is similar

<https://doccs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/10/wyoming-correctional-facility-prea-report-final-9.14.2020.pdf>

⁶ Prison Policy Initiative’s Prison Gerrymandering Project. “Prison Populations and the Census – FAQs.” Accessed December 30, 2022 at: <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/faq.html>

⁷ New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, PREA Facility Audit Report for Albion Correctional Facility, September 2020. Accessed December 30, 2022 at: <https://doccs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/10/albion-correctional-facility-prea-report-final-9.15.2020.pdf>

to that of the GLOW Region as a whole. That is, across the GLOW Region, the Youth population and the Adult population decreased by 15.3% and 6.9%, respectively, from 2010 to 2021 while the Older Adult population grew 25% during the same time period.

Changes in age distribution across New York State as a whole were different from those in Livingston County and the GLOW Region for both Youth and Adults. Specifically, in New York State, the Youth population decreased by a more modest 3.8% and the Adult population increased by 2.2%. The Older Adult population in New York State saw an increase of 30.3%, similar to Livingston County and the GLOW Region.

One age related indicator of economic stability is the Dependency Ratio. According to the US Census Bureau, the Dependency Ratio is the ratio of the dependent-age population to the working age population. While economists often define dependents or non-producers as those under 15 years and over 64 years, the Census Bureau adjusts the lower bound to 18 years as this better represents the age in the US when youth leave home for college and/or a more independent life. Regardless, the higher the ratio, the greater the burden of support on the working population.⁸

In Livingston County, the Dependency Ratio is 0.55. This ratio is lower than the GLOW Region and New York State, which are both at 0.60. These ratios suggest that Livingston County is in a more favorable economic position to the surrounding GLOW Region and New York State. That is, at least for the time being, large declines in the Youth population seem to be offsetting the growth of the Older Adult population. However, overtime a small Youth population in Livingston County will lead to a contraction of the Adult population. This, in turn, will lead to a lack of support for the growing population of Older Adults.

This shift in age distribution, with younger residents decreasing and older residents increasing, will have significant impacts on the region's social services and health care delivery systems. As a greater percentage of the population is comprised of Older Adults, services to care for a growing aged population will need to expand.

At the same time, the region will likely experience a shift in the labor force and economic productivity. Specifically, according to the RAND Corporation, as the population ages, there will be slower growth in the labor force (i.e., the total number of people available to work). In addition, the productivity of all workers across the age spectrum will slow as older and younger workers interact.⁹ Finally, as the number of people who comprise the workforce decreases, the tax burden on those who remain working will increase, impacting overall spending and saving.¹⁰

⁸File & Kominski. Dependency Ratios in the United States: A State and Metropolitan Area Analysis. Data from the 2009 American Community Survey. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2012/demo/dependency-ratios-in-the-united-states.pdf>

⁹ Maestras, N. Mullen, K. & Powell, D. (2016). The Effect of Population Aging on the Economic Growth, the Labor Force and Productivity: a working paper. RAND Labor and Population. The RAND Corporation. Accessed January 2023 at: https://www.rand.org/pubs/working_papers/WR1063-1.html

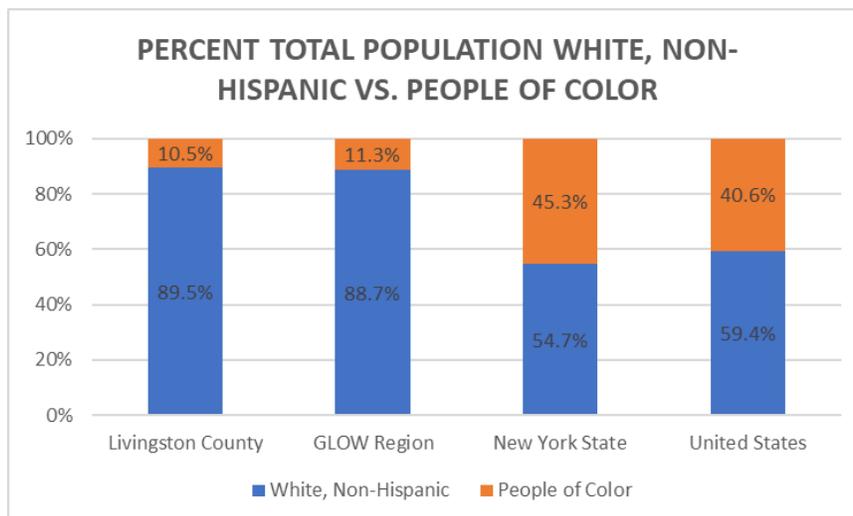
¹⁰ Pettinger, T. (2016). The Impact of an Aging Population on the Economy. Economics Help. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/8950/society/impact-ageing-population-economy>

Race/Ethnicity: Racial and ethnic diversity is low in Livingston County. Nearly 90% (89.5%) of the population self-identifies as White, Non-Hispanic. Less than 4% of the population self-identifies as Multi-Racial (3.4%), Black/African American (2.8%), Some Other Race (1.4%), or Asian (1.1%). Less than 1% of the population self-identifies American Indian/Alaskan Native (0.1%). Additionally, 3.9% of the population self-identifies as Hispanic/Latino.¹¹

SELF-REPORTED RACE & ETHNICITY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY RESIDENTS

Race/Ethnicity	Percent of Population
White, Non-Hispanic	89.5%
Black or African American	2.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%
Asian	1.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Some Other Race	1.4%
Two or More Races	3.4%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	3.9%

Source: US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2017-2021, 5yr. Table DP05.



While these numbers are consistent with the surrounding region, they contrast notably with the state of New York and the nation. Specifically, like in Livingston County, a large majority of residents of the GLOW Region self-identify as White, Non-Hispanic (88.7%).

Source: US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2017-2021, 5yr. Table DP05.

However, across the state and nation, the population is much more balanced. In New York State, 54.7% of the population self-identifies as White, Non-Hispanic and 59.4% of US residents self-identify as White, Non-Hispanic. Conversely, nearly half of the state and national populations report a minority racial and/or ethnic status.

¹¹ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table DP05. Accessed December 2023 at: https://data.census.gov/table?text=DP05&t=Age+and+Sex&g=0100000US_0400000US36_0500000US36037,36051,36073,36121&tid=ACSDP5Y2021.DP05

This lack of racial and ethnic diversity locally may reduce a sense of urgency for multi-cultural services in the region. However, as national research has revealed and as local Poverty and Income indicators confirm (see Poverty and Income sections below), People of Color across the country and in Livingston County are more likely than their White, Non-Hispanic peers to be low-income. Therefore, access to services supporting economic stability for People of Color is critical. Without them, our neighbors of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds will continue to struggle disproportionately.

Veteran Status: Livingston County is home to 3701 veterans, that is 7.2% of the total population over 18 years (13.5% of males over 18 years and 0.8% of females over 18 years). This number is consistent with the greater GLOW Region, in which 7.5% of the total population over 18 years has a veteran status. However, the number is considerably higher than New York State as a whole, where only 4.2% of the total population over 18 years is a veteran. According to Forbes, Veterans tend to settle in more affordable places, rural areas, near military bases, and in communities with fewer immigrants.¹² While the closest military base to Livingston County is in Fort Drum, NY,¹³ roughly 185 miles to the northeast, Livingston County does meet the other criteria – housing is relatively affordable (i.e., Median Housing Value is \$142,000 in Livingston County vs. \$340,600 in New York State¹⁴), the area is rural, and the population has few immigrants (i.e., 96.3% of the population is native born vs. 77.5% in the state¹⁵). Also, proximity to two VA Medical Centers without hospital services (Ontario and Genesee Counties), one VA Medical Center with hospital services (Steuben County), and two Veterans Clinic (Monroe County)¹⁶ could account for a relatively large veteran population even in the absence of a local base.

B. Poverty

Overall Poverty: Livingston County's overall poverty rate (i.e., 11.5% of the total population) is lower than the state (13.5%) and nation (12.6%) yet slightly higher than the GLOW Region as a whole (11.2%). Approximately one quarter of the population of Livingston County (25.2%) lives below 200% of poverty and is therefore eligible for services funded through the Community Services Block Grant. This percentage is lower than the GLOW Region (27.9%), the state (28.4%), and the nation (29.2%).

¹² Where Veterans Live. Forbes.com. November 10, 2014. Accessed December 4, 2018 at:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/trulia/2014/11/10/where-veterans-live/#1b3d51647484>

¹³ New York Military Bases. MilitaryBases.com. Accessed December 4, 2018 at: <https://militarybases.com/new-york>

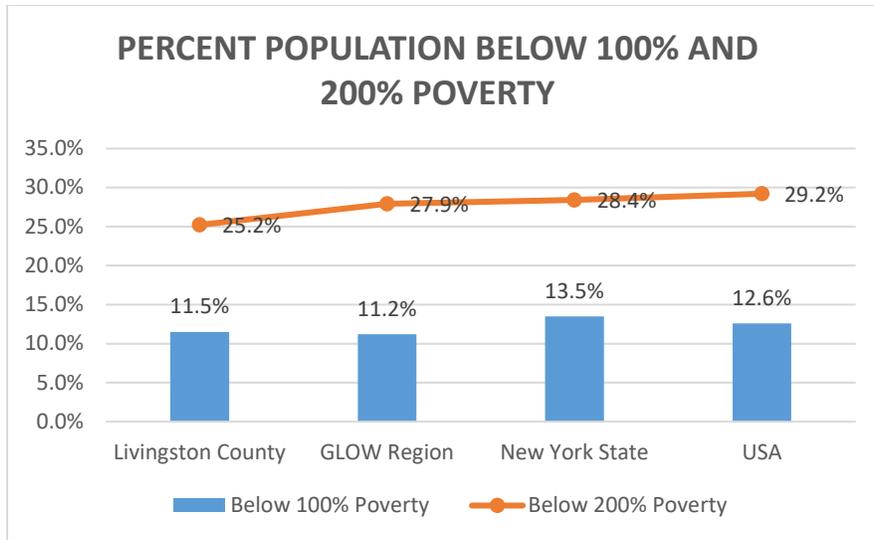
¹⁴ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table DP04. Accessed January 2023 at:

https://data.census.gov/table?q=dp04&g=0100000US_0400000US36_0500000US36037,36051,36073,36121&tid=ACSDP5Y2021.DP04

¹⁵ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table B05002. Accessed January 2023 at:

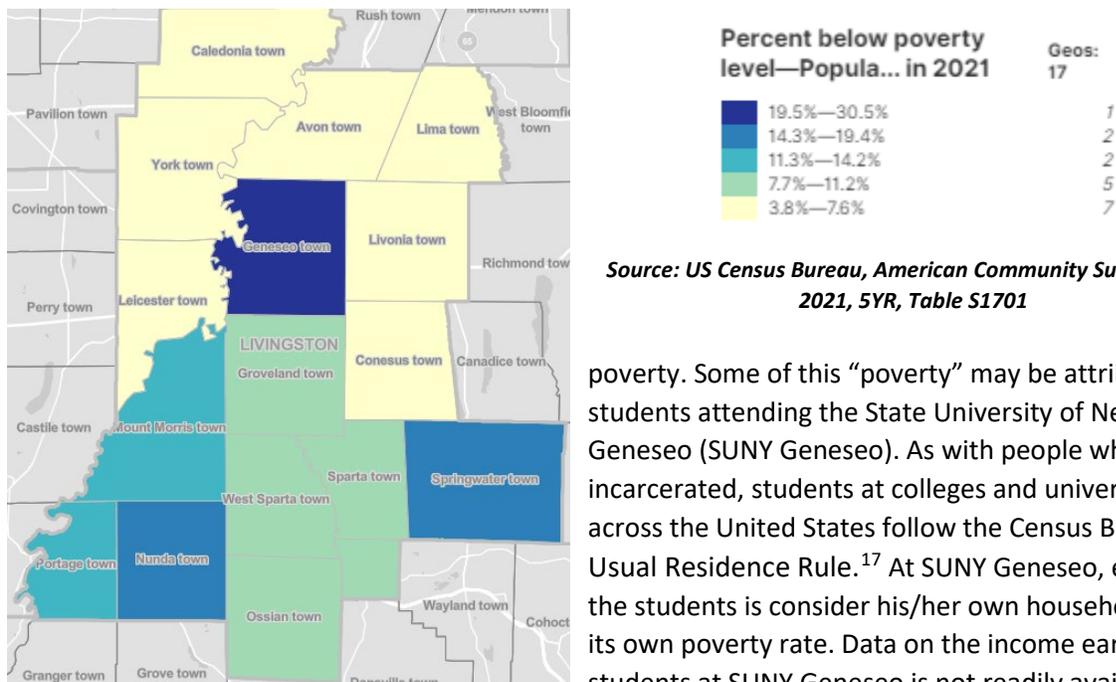
https://data.census.gov/table?q=Native+Born&g=0100000US_0400000US36_0500000US36037,36051,36073,36121&tid=ACSDT5Y2021.B05002

¹⁶ US Department of Veterans Affairs. Find VA Locations. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/?facilityType=health&page=1&address=14485&serviceType&latitude=42.904786&longitude=-77.611387&radius=11&bounds%5B%5D=-78.361387&bounds%5B%5D=42.154786&bounds%5B%5D=-76.861387&bounds%5B%5D=43.654786&context=Lima%2C%20New%20York%2014485%2C%20United%20States>



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table S1701

It is important to note that the distribution of people living in poverty is not even across Livingston County. There are pockets with much higher rates of people living under 100% of the federal poverty level. In Geneseo, Livingston County’s most “urban” community, three in ten residents (30.5%) live in



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table S1701

poverty. Some of this “poverty” may be attributable to students attending the State University of New York at Geneseo (SUNY Geneseo). As with people who are incarcerated, students at colleges and universities across the United States follow the Census Bureau’s Usual Residence Rule.¹⁷ At SUNY Geneseo, each of the students is consider his/her own household with its own poverty rate. Data on the income earned by students at SUNY Geneseo is not readily available.

However, the Urban Institute reports that while many students work during college (42% part time and 16% full time), their median income is roughly at the Federal Poverty Level (\$13,880 in 2015-2016).¹⁸

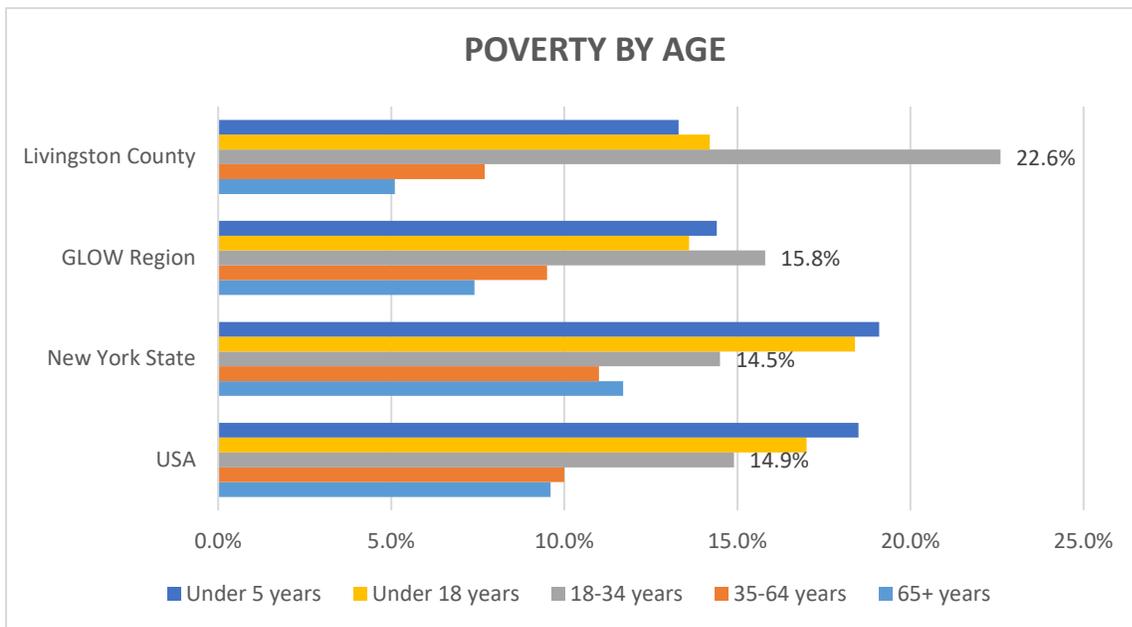
¹⁷US Census Bureau. 2020 Census Residence Criteria and Residence Situations. Accessed January 2023 at: https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/memo-series/2020-memo-2018_04-appendix.pdf

¹⁸ Urban Institute. Understanding College Affordability. Working During College. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://collegeaffordability.urban.org/covering-expenses/working-during-college/>

Another possible factor in Geneseo’s relatively high poverty rate is its more “urban” nature. Across the United States, we see patterns in poverty with rates being higher in urban and rural areas than in suburban areas. This pattern plays out in Livingston County. Geneseo, which is the region’s most urban community, and Southern Livingston County, where the communities are more rural, have the highest concentrations of poverty. Northern Livingston County, which is an extension of suburban Rochester, and likely benefits economically from proximity to Monroe County, has the lowest rates of poverty in the region.¹⁹

The geographic distribution of poverty is important to consider, particularly considering the transportation barriers presented below (see Transportation section), as the Community Initiatives Council selects delegate organizations for Community Services Block Grant funds.

Poverty by Age: When looked at by age, poverty rates in Livingston County tend to be lower than the state and nation. The exception is 18-34 year olds. In Livingston County, this group is living below poverty at a rate of over 1.5times their counterparts in the state and nation.



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table S1701

This finding provides some credibility to the hypothesis above that one factor contributing to high poverty rates in Livingston County and Geneseo, in particular, may be the presences of the State University. SUNY Geneseo has an enrollment of approximately 4,910 students,²⁰ most of whom fall into

¹⁹ Pew Research Center. Demographic and Economic Trends in Urban, Suburban and Rural Communities. May 22, 2018. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2018/05/22/demographic-and-economic-trends-in-urban-suburban-and-rural-communities/#:~:text=About%20half%20the%20U.S.%20poor,areas%20are%20at%20the%20top>

²⁰SUNY Geneseo. About. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://www.geneseo.edu/about>

the age category of 18-34 years old and who, due to the Census Bureau's Usual Residence Rule are being counted as living in Geneseo (i.e., Livingston County) regardless of where they actually call home.²¹ As mentioned above, while many students work during college (42% part time and 16% full time), their median income is roughly at the Federal Poverty Level (\$13,880 in 2015-2016).²² Another way to look at it is: at the current New York State minimum wage (\$14.20),²³ students working less than ~20 hours per week would fall below the federal poverty level for a family size of one (\$14,580).²⁴ Consequently, a relatively high percentage of residents who are college students would inflate the poverty rate, particularly among the age group most likely to be enrolled.

Poverty by Gender: Consistent with national research findings, poverty rates for women in Livingston County (13.3%) are higher than those for men (9.7%).²⁵ Several factors may contribute to this disparity: 1) the wage gap: nationally, women who work full-time, year round earn 84 cents to every dollar their male counterparts earn.²⁶ In New York, the number is slightly more favorable with women earning 86 cents for every dollar men earn.²⁷ 2) women are overrepresented in low-wage jobs and underrepresented in high wage occupations. That is, nationally, women made up nearly two-thirds of the workers in the 40 lowest-paying jobs (e.g., childcare workers, home health aides, restaurant servers, and fast food workers) and just over one-third of workers in the 40 highest paying occupations.²⁸ 3) female-headed families: in Livingston County 22.4% of families are headed by a single parent. Of those, 75.1% are female-headed families and more than one in five single female-headed households (21.7%) lives in poverty (vs. 9.2% of single male-headed households).²⁹ Given the wage gap and the overrepresentation of women in low-wage jobs, it is not surprising that women in Livingston County and across the nation would suffer disproportionately from poverty.

²¹United States Census Bureau. Residence Rule and Residence Situations For The 2010 Census. Accessed December 2018: at https://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/resid_rules/resid_rules.html#EIGHT

²² Urban Institute. Understanding College Affordability. Working During College. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://collegeaffordability.urban.org/covering-expenses/working-during-college/>

²³ New York State. Governor Hochul Announces Minimum Wage Increase for Upstate New Yorkers. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-minimum-wage-increase-upstate-new-yorkers>

²⁴ US Department of Health and Human Services. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. US Federal Poverty Guidelines Used to Determine Financial Eligibility for Certain Federal Programs. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

²⁵ The Center for American Progress. The Basic Facts About Women in Poverty. August 3, 2020. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/basic-facts-women-poverty>

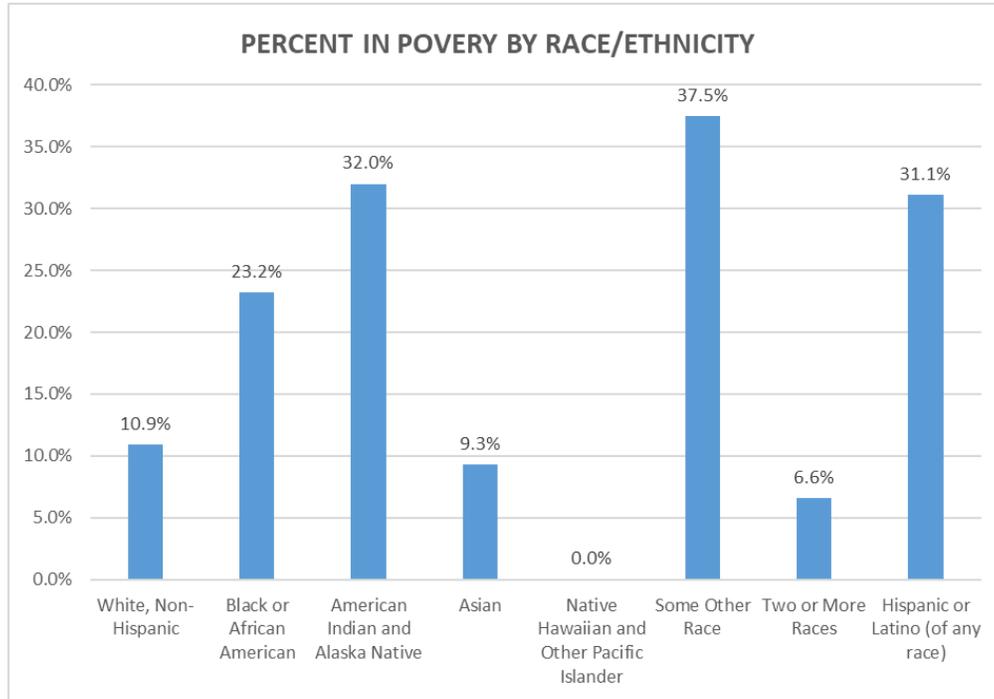
²⁶ National Women's Law Center. A Window into the Wage Gap: What's Behind It and How to Close It. January 10, 2023. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://nwlc.org/resource/wage-gap-explainer>

²⁷ Bloomberg. Gender Pay Gap for NYC Government Workers is Bigger than State Average. September 22, 2022. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-09-22/gender-pay-gap-for-nyc-government-workers-is-bigger-than-state-average#:~:text=On%20average%2C%20in%20New%20York,gaps%20among%20US%20states%20nationwide>.

²⁸ National Women's Law Center. A Window into the Wage Gap: What's Behind It and How to Close It. January 10, 2023. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://nwlc.org/resource/wage-gap-explainer>

²⁹ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table B17917.

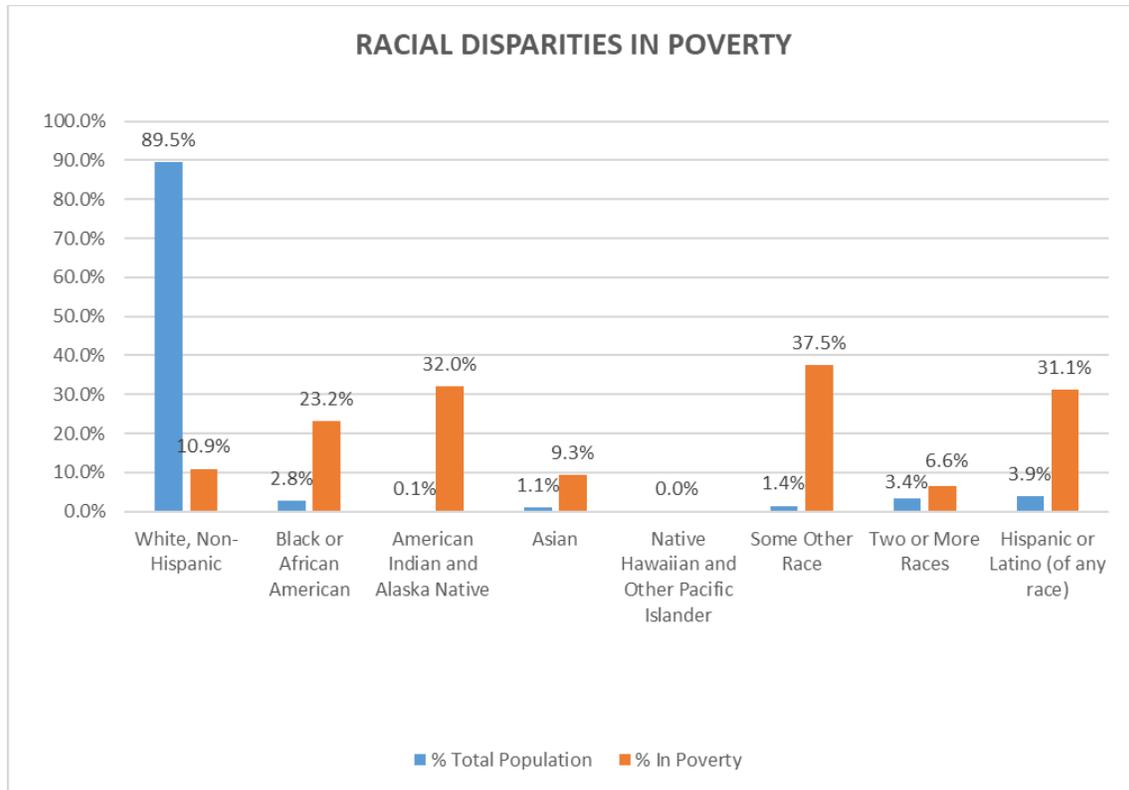
Poverty by Race/Ethnicity: Again, consistent with national research findings, poverty rates in Livingston County vary notably by race and ethnicity.³⁰ Specifically, of those in poverty in Livingston County, only 10.9% self-identify as White, Non-Hispanic. Roughly three times that number self-identify as “Some Other Race” (37.5%), “American Indian and Alaskan Native” (32.0%) or “Hispanic” (31.1%). Twice that number self-identify as “Black or African American” (23.2%).



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table S1701

Given that the general population is overwhelmingly White, this finding demonstrates racial disparities in local poverty. As the graph below clearly shows, while roughly 90% of the residents of Livingston County self-report their race/ethnicity as “White, Non-Hispanic,” only 10.9% of people who identify as White, Non-Hispanic live in poverty.

³⁰ The Center for American Progress. The Latest Poverty, Income, and Food Insecurity Data Reveal Continuing Racial Disparities. December 21, 2022. Accessed January 2023 at: <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-latest-poverty-income-and-food-insecurity-data-reveal-continuing-racial-disparities>



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table S1701

In contrast, while people who are Black/African American make up only 2.8% of the total population in Livingston County, nearly a quarter (23.2%) of residents who self-identify as Black/African American live in poverty. Similarly, while people who are American Indian/Alaskan Native make up only 0.1% of the total population, 32.0% of people who self-identify as American Indian/Alaskan Native live in poverty. If poverty were equally distributed along racial and ethnic lines, we would expect roughly 10% of each racial and/or ethnic group to live in poverty.

See Appendix A for overall poverty as well as a breakdown of poverty rates by age, gender, and race/ethnicity for each of the communities in Livingston County.

C. Summary/Conclusion

Basic Demographics: Over the past decade, Livingston County’s total population has decreased by 5.44%, while the whole region of Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties (i.e., the GLOW Region) has decreased nearly a full percentage point less (4.47%). Population change has been greatest in the southwestern part of the County.

Currently, the trend is for younger residents to migrate out of the area while Older Adults stay and age in place. If this pattern continues, a shift in age related demographics will have significant impacts on the region’s economy. First, the region’s social services and health care delivery systems will have to expand to care for a growing aged population. Second, there will be changes in the labor force and its productivity. Research from the RAND Corporation suggests that as the population ages, the labor force

will not only begin to contract, but as older and younger workers interact, the productivity of all workers across the age spectrum will slow. Finally, as the number of people who make up the workforce decreases, the tax burden on those who remain working will increase, impacting overall spending and saving across the region.

Livingston County evidences very little racial and ethnic diversity. Nearly 90% (89.5%) of the population self-identifies as White, Non-Hispanic (vs. 54.7% of New York State and 59.4% of the nation). Additionally, just under 4% (3.9%) of the population self-identifies as Hispanic (vs. 19.2% of New York State and 18.4% of the nation). This lack of racial and ethnic diversity locally may reduce a sense of urgency for multi-cultural services in the region. However, as national research has revealed and as local Poverty and Income indicators confirm, communities of color across the country and in Livingston County are more likely than their White, Non-Hispanic peers to be low-income. Therefore, access to services supporting economic stability for people of color is critical. Without them, our neighbors of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds will continue to struggle disproportionately.

Poverty: Overall, the percent of people living in poverty is 11.5%, two percentage points lower than New York State as a whole. However, there are pockets of significant poverty within the region.

- In Geneseo just over 30% (30.5%) of all residents live in poverty.
- Eighteen- to 34-year-olds in Livingston County experience poverty at a disproportionate rate. That is, nearly one quarter (22.5%) of young adults are living below the federal poverty level vs. 14.5% across New York State.
- Over half (55.1%) of the families in poverty in Livingston County are female-headed.
- Poverty rates for People of Color in Livingston County are disproportionately high as compared to those among people who are White, Non-Hispanic. That is, while roughly 1 in 10 people who are White, Non-Hispanic (10.9%) lives in poverty, the percentages of people who are Black/African American (23.2%), American Indian/Alaskan Native (32.0%), Hispanic/Latino (31.1%) or of Some Other Race (37.5%) are two to four times as high.

III. Community Needs Survey

A. Methodology

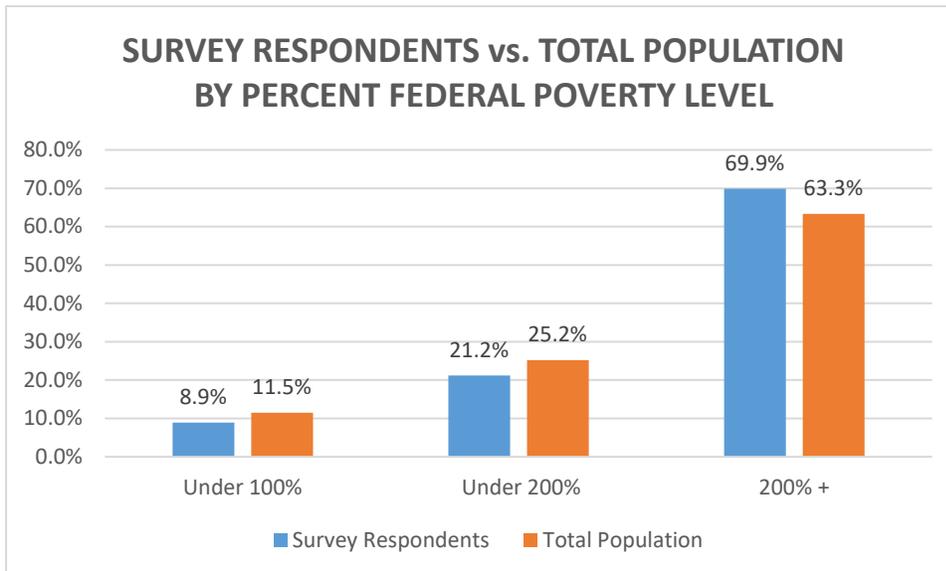
To determine the needs of low-income families and individuals in Livingston County, the Community Initiatives Council (CIC) utilized quantitative data collected through reputable sources. These sources included: the U.S. Census Bureau and other federal, state, local, and private agencies as well as data collected and compiled by various Departments within Livingston County and by regional entities as part of their own community needs assessment, strategic planning, utilization, and customer satisfaction surveying processes. In addition, CIC conducted a comprehensive Community Needs Survey engaging as large a cross-section of the community as possible given time and resource constraints (See Appendix C for a copy of the survey). To the extent possible, the survey targeted: CIC Board members, Livingston County staff, staff and clients of CIC's existing delegate agencies, low-income community members,

faith-based organizations, public and private sector representatives, educational institutions, and the community at large.

The Community Needs Survey was conducted during the first quarter of 2023. The survey was developed in SurveyMonkey and made available online throughout January and February 2023. Notifications of the survey’s availability were published on the Livingston County website and announced through a press release sent to all local media outlets. The survey link, as well as paper versions of the survey, were distributed via the four currently CIC-funded delegate agencies as well as through Livingston County departments.

B. Profile of Respondents

During the first quarter of 2023, three hundred thirty-five (335) Community Needs Surveys were collected. Respondents who reported demographic information were reasonably representative of the community at large with regards to their distribution across Federal Poverty Levels and race/ethnicity. However, the majority (71.7%) of survey respondents were female and the sample was skewed toward the older demographic as youth were not actively targeted.

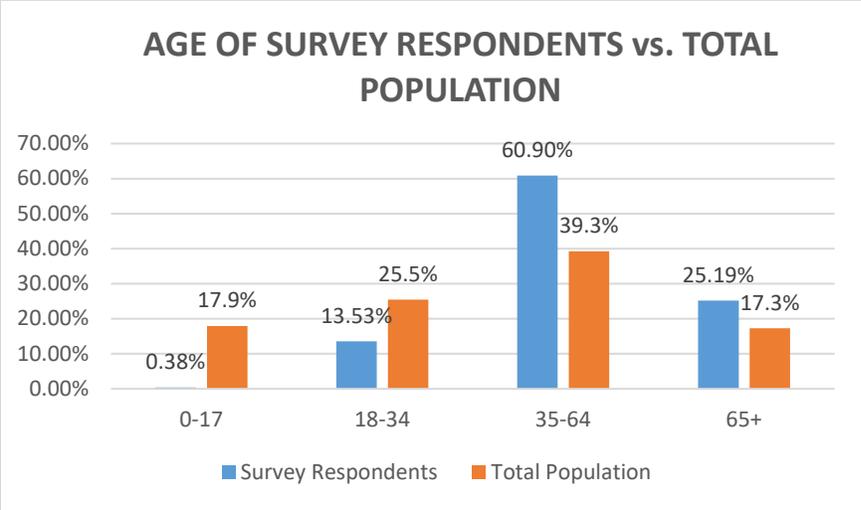


As the table to the left shows, roughly 10% of each group – Survey Respondents and the Total Population – live below 100% of the federal poverty level and roughly 23% of the each group lives below 200% of the federal poverty level (i.e., eligible to participate in Community Services Block Grant funded programs).

Source: Livingston County Community Initiatives Council Community Needs Survey, 2023 and US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2017-2021, 5yr. Table S1701

Additionally, ninety-five percent of Survey Respondents self-identified as White and 2.9% self-identified as Hispanic. These numbers are grossly similar to the Total Population in which 89.5% of residents are White and 3.9% are Hispanic.

Whereas the County’s population is almost exactly 50% male and 50% female (with a slight bias toward males), 71.7% of Survey Respondents self-identified as female and 22.2% as male. The American Community Survey does not include Transgender as an option. Consequently, according to that source there are no Transgendered residents of Livingston County. However, 0.035% of CIC’s Survey Respondents who reported their gender self-identified as Transgendered and 0.72% self-reported as “Other”.

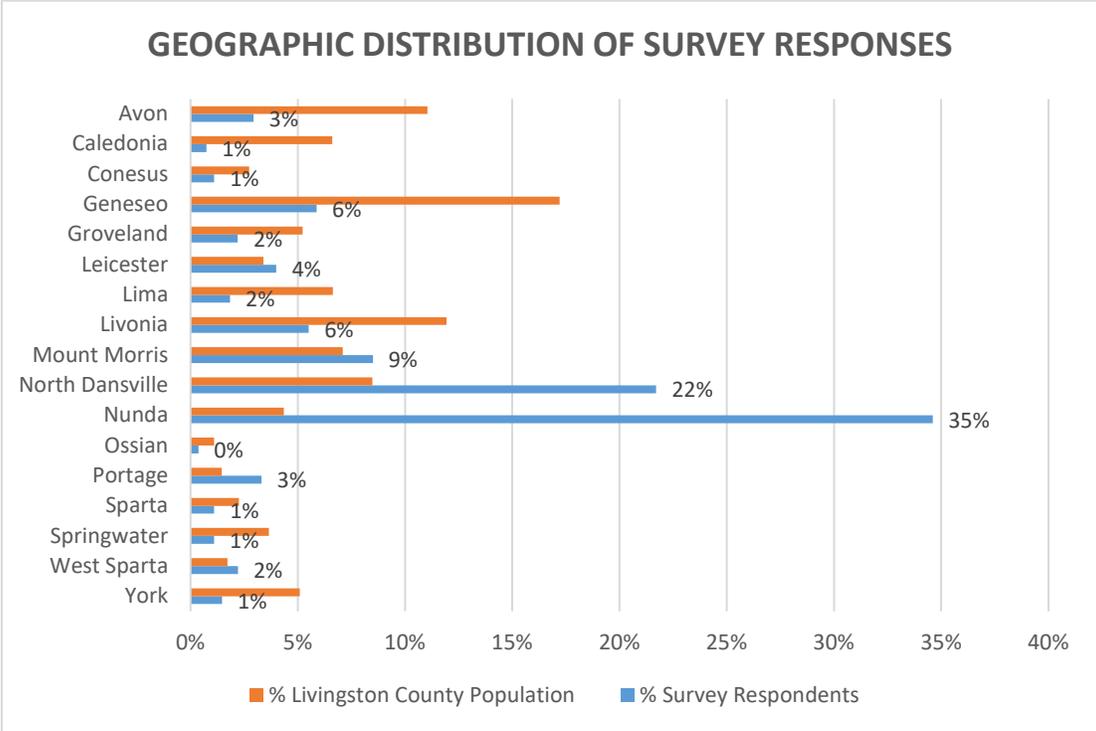


As mentioned above, youth were not targeted in CIC’s Community Needs Survey. Consequently, there was only one survey response received from a resident under 18 years of age.

Source: Livingston County Community Initiatives Council Community Needs Survey, 2023 and US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2017-21, 5yr. Accessed March 2023 via NYSCAA Data Hub.

Responses from younger adults, aged 18-34 years of age, were lower than would be representative of the Total Population. This is unfortunate, as poverty rates are particularly high among this demographic (see Poverty Section in the Population Profile above) and, therefore, input from this particular group of residents is critical in discussions of the causes and conditions of poverty.

There was at least one response from each of the 17 communities that comprise Livingston County. That said, the geographic distribution of Survey Respondents reporting residence was not particularly representative of population distribution across Livingston County.



Source: Livingston County Community Initiatives Council Community Needs Survey, 2023 and US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2017-21, 5yr. Table DP05.

Specifically, residents of Nunda and North Dansville were overrepresented in the sample. That is, of those Survey Respondents reporting residence, over one third (35%) indicated they were from Nunda and 22% indicated they were from North Dansville whereas only 4% and 8% of the County's total population reside in those two communities. In conducting the survey, efforts were made to target Livingston County's low-income residents. This targeting included special outreach events and strategies in the communities of North Dansville and Nunda where the low-income population is relatively high. The impact of targeted outreach appears more significant in Nunda because, overall, it is a smaller community than the others.

A Note about the Potential for Sampling Error

The Community Needs Survey was intended to elicit the opinions and perceptions of key stakeholders (i.e., low-income clients, community members, and staff as well as representatives of faith-based organizations, the public and private sector, and educational institutions). The data collected has been used in conjunction with available quantitative data to determine needs that Livingston County's Community Initiatives Council (CIC) can address in the next 3 years (2024-2026).

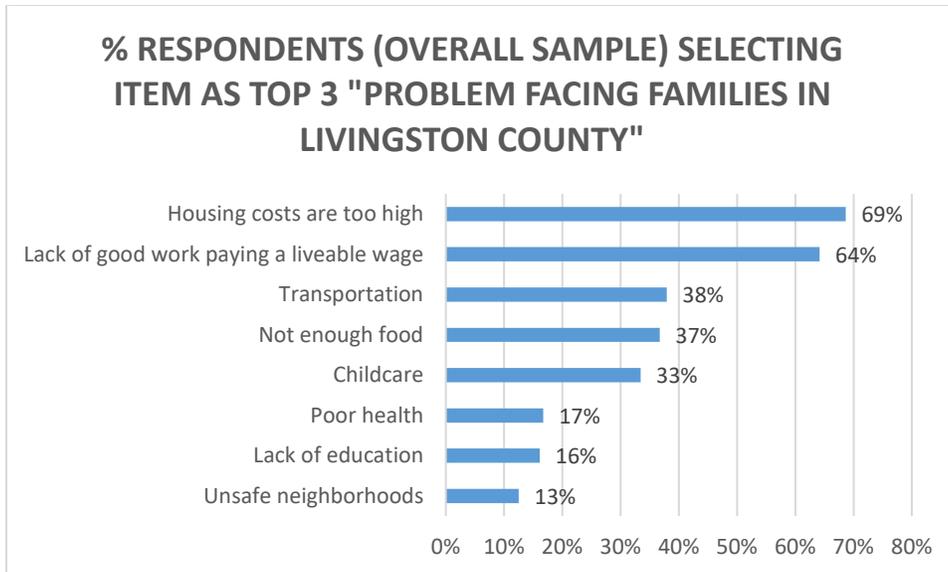
Given the distribution/recruitment methods, people participating in the Community Needs Survey were generally self-selecting. As a result, potential sampling error may have occurred. Specifically, distribution/recruitment methods may have limited the validity of results as the samples are not purely random nor, as described above, are they fully representative of the community at large. Consequently, the qualitative data presented here are presented cautiously.

C. Key Findings - Needs

1. Overall Sample: As a component of the Community Needs Survey, respondents were asked to select from a list of 8 options the three most pressing problems or biggest barriers to economic security for low-income families in Livingston County. Options included:

- 1) Not enough food,
- 2) Housing costs are too high,
- 3) Lack of good work paying a livable wage,
- 4) Lack of education,
- 5) Unsafe neighborhoods,
- 6) Childcare,
- 7) Transportation, and
- 8) Poor health.

The table below shows the list of concerns as ranked by Survey Respondents:



Source: Livingston County Community Initiatives Council Community Needs Survey, 2023

Over two-thirds (69%) of Survey Respondents indicated that “housing costs” are a Top 3 Problem facing families in Livingston County while just under two-thirds (64%) indicated that “lack of good work paying a livable wage” is a Top 3 Problem. Less than half of Survey Respondents indicated that the remaining issues were among the top three concerns for them and/or their friends and family. This finding suggests that Housing and Employment are the most pervasive concerns for Livingston County residents.

After selecting the Top 3 Problems facing families in Livingston County, Survey Respondents were asked to drill down and identify the specific issues they and their friends/family have experienced in relation to the broader concerns.

The table below shows the top issues reported by the overall sample of Survey Respondents. The table includes issues reported by at least 20% of Survey Respondents. See Appendix B for a full list of issues by area of concern.

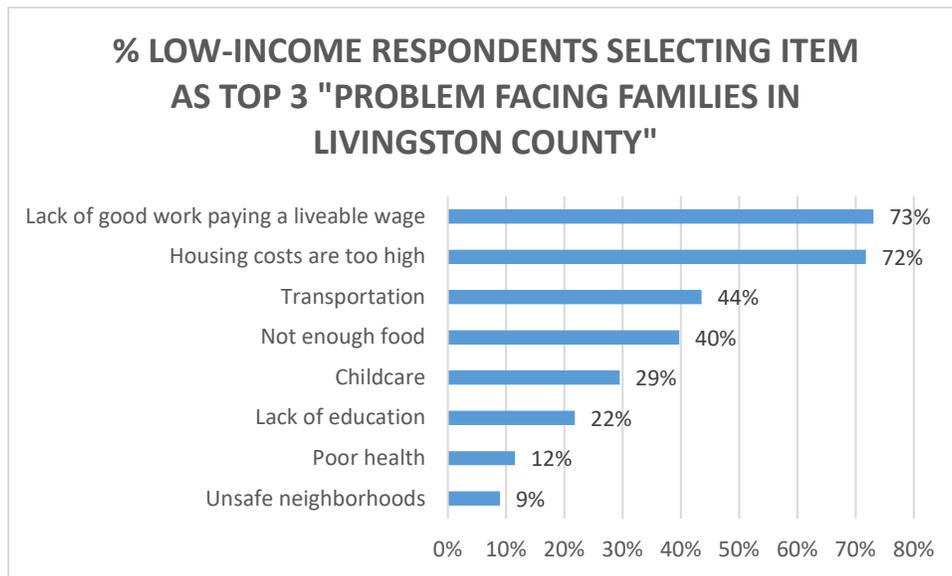
Overall Sample		
Problem	Specific Issue	% Respondents Indicating Specific Issue
Housing	Utility costs are too high	48%
Employment	Jobs don’t pay enough	41%
Housing	Rent is too high	35%
Food	Not enough money to purchase food	30%
Employment	Jobs don’t come with benefits (e.g., health insurance, sick time, etc.)	24%
Early Ed & Childcare	Lack of affordable childcare for infants and toddlers (0- 2yrs)	22%
Housing	House is not energy efficient	21%
Housing	House needs too many repairs	20%

Source: Livingston County Community Initiatives Council Community Needs Survey, 2023

Color coding by area of concern highlights the fact that nearly all of the issues identified by 20% or more of Survey Respondents were related to Housing or Employment. “Not enough money to purchase food”

and “lack of affordable childcare for infants and toddlers (0-2yrs)” were the only issues mentioned by 20% or more of Survey Respondents in areas of concern outside of Housing and Employment.

2. Low-Income Survey Respondents: Community Needs Survey responses from low-income community members (i.e., those living under 200% of the federal poverty level and eligible for CSBG-funded programs) vary slightly from the overall sample. First, the top two items change places, with low-income respondents ranking “lack of good work paying a livable wage” as the number one problem and “housing costs are too high” as the number two problem facing families in Livingston County. Again, Employment and Housing are ranked much higher than the remaining problems suggesting that that these two issues are stand-outs for all residents of Livingston County, including low-income residents.



Source: Livingston County Community Initiatives Council Community Needs Survey, 2023

The table below shows the top issues reported by low-income Survey Respondents and includes issues reported by at least 20% of the low-income sample. See Appendix B for a full list of issues by area of concern.

Low-Income Sample		
Problem	Specific Issue	% Low-Income Respondents Indicating Specific Issue
Housing	Utility costs are too high	57.1%
Employment	Jobs don't pay enough	55.8%
Housing	Rent is too high	46.8%
Employment	Jobs don't come with benefits (e.g., health insurance, sick time, etc.)	35.1%
Food	Not enough money to purchase food	32.5%
Housing	House is not energy efficient	27.3%
Employment	Don't have access to public transportation to get to work	23.4%
Housing	Mortgage payment is too high	22.1%
Employment	Don't have affordable child care/pre-school programming to allow me to work	22.1%
Housing	House needs too many repairs	20.8%
Employment	Don't have personal transportation to get to work	20.8%

Source: Livingston County Community Initiatives Council Community Needs Survey, 2023

For both the overall sample and the low-income sample “utility costs are too high,” “jobs don’t pay enough,” and “rent is too high” were the top three issues reported. The consistency between these findings suggests a pervasive issue of low wages across the region making it difficult to afford housing costs, not to mention healthy food and childcare. The interplay between the local economy, housing market, and basic needs like food, childcare and transportation is described in more detail in Section D: Community Factors Affecting Poverty, as is the interaction of poverty, nutrition, and health.

D. Community Factors Affecting Poverty

1. The Economy: Agriculture has been and continues to be important for the local economy. Crop production and the raising of livestock have always been facilitated by rich soil and a moderate climate. Infrastructure in the form of waterways (i.e., Genesee River, Erie Canal), highways, and railroads have allowed for relatively easy acquisition of resources and distribution of locally produced goods. Consequently, according to the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council’s Economic Development Strategy for the Genesee/Finger Lakes District (2020-2025), agriculture and related agribusiness, including dairy production and food processing, comprise a large and growing sector of the County’s economy. As such, the region hosts a cluster of Food and Beverage Industry players, including: Kraft Foods, Barilla America, New York Bean, Once Again Nut Butter, Archer Daniel Midland (ADM), Sweeteners Plus, Monk’s Bread, Land o Lakes, and Seneca Foods.³¹

Additionally, the region is rich in natural resources and industries have grown up around harvesting and processing those resources. Mt. Morris, for example, is home to American Rock Salt. Established in 1997, American Rock Salt is the largest operating salt mine in the Western Hemisphere. It produces de-icing salt to help ensure safe winter travel across the northeastern United States. Producing up to 18,000 tons of salt each day, American Rock Salt capitalizes on the region’s strong transportation infrastructure to ship salt to 12 states. It has created over 400 jobs for Livingston County in mining as well as hundreds of jobs in supporting industries like trucking, rail, and construction.³²

In addition to being an ideal location for agriculture, agribusiness, and the harvesting and processing of natural resources, Livingston County lies just to the south of, and within commuting distance of, a major industrial center. For over 150 years, Rochester has been known for innovation and entrepreneurship. In fact, three giants of the technology sector: Bausch & Lomb, Xerox, and Kodak, were founded in the city. While, overtime, reliance on these three major companies as employers has reduced, their presence during the city’s formative years set the stage for a region that continues to place importance on innovation and entrepreneurship as well as education, the foundation upon which these values are built.

That importance can be seen in Livingston County’s support of small businesses and business startups which, according to the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council’s Economic Development Strategy for the Genesee/Finger Lakes District (2020-2025), represent a “significant proportion of the

³¹ Genesee-Finger Lakes Economic Development District’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2021-2025. Accessed February 2023 at: https://webgen1files.revize.com/geneseeny/Document%20Center/Program%20Areas/2021_CEDS%20ADOPTED.pdf

³² American Rock Salt. About Us. Accessed February 2023 at: <https://americanrocksalt.com/index.php/about-american-rock-salt/>

growth in Livingston County.” Support is provided through Livingston County Development Corporation’s microenterprise revolving loan fund and through the appropriation of state development funds. New York Main Street, for example, funded a commercial district analysis of the region leading to a final report with recommendations for: a public art campaign, wayfinding signage, and a downtown Livingston brand, all intended to draw small businesses and patrons to Livingston County’s 9 Villages.³³

Significant Industries: According to the New York Department of Labor, eleven industries within the Finger Lakes Region (i.e., Livingston County as well as Genesee, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates Counties) are designated as “significant” based on past job growth (2015-2020), the size of the industry, projected job growth for 2018-2028, and the industry’s average wages.

Significant Industries, Finger Lakes Region, 2021

NAICS Industry Code	Industry Name	Jobs		Net Change in Jobs, 2015-2020	% Change in Jobs, 2015-2020	Average Annual Wage, 2020	Projected % Change in Jobs, 2018-2028	Why Industry is Significant**
		2015*	2020*					
	Total, all industries (all ownerships)	559,200	520,200	-39,000	-7.0%	\$55,100	9.4%	NA
238	Specialty trade contractors	12,900	14,300	1,400	10.9%	\$65,400	7.7%	G, J, W
311	Food manufacturing	6,500	6,800	300	4.6%	\$56,700	3.6%	G, J, W
333	Machinery manufacturing	11,700	9,800	-1,900	-16.2%	\$81,800	-6.1%	J, W
334	Computer and electronic product manufacturing	10,300	10,000	-300	-2.9%	\$90,800	-10.3%	G, J, W
541	Professional, scientific and technical services	26,500	26,600	100	0.4%	\$78,000	13.1%	G, J, W, P
551	Management of companies and enterprises	12,200	9,700	-2,500	-20.5%	\$104,800	16.3%	J, W, P
611	Educational services	72,200	68,000	-4,200	-5.8%	\$61,400	17.2%	G, J, W, P
621	Ambulatory health care services	21,000	20,100	-900	-4.3%	\$54,400	48.5%	G, J, P
622	Hospitals	31,000	33,600	2,600	8.4%	\$62,800	16.3%	G, J, W, P
623	Nursing and residential care facilities	23,000	22,400	600	-2.6%	\$39,000	15.0%	G, J, P
624	Social assistance	13,600	15,800	2,200	16.2%	\$29,800	43.6%	G, J, P

NA – Not Applicable

*Represents both private and public sector jobs

**Key:

G: Industry experienced above-average job growth; can be net or percentage growth

J: Industry employs a significant number of jobs (>6,000)

P: Above-average growth projected for 2018-2028

W: Industry pays above-average wages

Source: New York State Department of Labor. Bureau of Labor Market Information. Division of Research and Statistics.

Significant Industries: a report to the workforce development system. 2021. Accessed February 2023 at:

[https://dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/03/2021-significant-industries-finger-lakes_0.pdf#:~:text=Manufacturing%20Food%20manufacturing%20\(NAICS%20Industry,significant%20industries%20in%20the%20region](https://dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/03/2021-significant-industries-finger-lakes_0.pdf#:~:text=Manufacturing%20Food%20manufacturing%20(NAICS%20Industry,significant%20industries%20in%20the%20region)

Per the table above, Educational Services is the largest “Significant Industry” with 68,000 jobs, or 13.1% of all jobs in the Finger Lakes, falling in that sector. Additionally, both growth to date and projected

³³ Genesee-Finger Lakes Economic Development District’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2021-2025. Accessed February 2023 at:

https://webgen1files.revize.com/geneseeny/Document%20Center/Program%20Areas/2021_CEDS%20ADOPTED.pdf

growth over the next ten years signal that Educational Services is an industry that is both stable and growing. Finally, jobs in Educational Services offer relatively high wages. The average annual wage for a person working in Educational Services (e.g., elementary, middle, and secondary school teachers; substitute teachers and teaching assistants; office clerks, secretaries, and janitorial staff at educational institutions) in the Finger Lakes region is \$61,400. This is \$8,700 more annually than the Average Annual Wage in the region (\$55,100).³⁴

A handful of industries or Occupational Groups are projected to grow faster than Educational Services over the next five years. All of these occupational groups are in the health and human services sectors: Healthcare Support, Personal Care and Service, Healthcare Practitioners and Technical, and Community and Social Service.

Finger Lakes Long-Term Occupational Projections

2018 - 2028



Overview

Select Region:
Finger Lakes

Annual Total Openings

81,618 ↑

Annual Change & Separations Openings

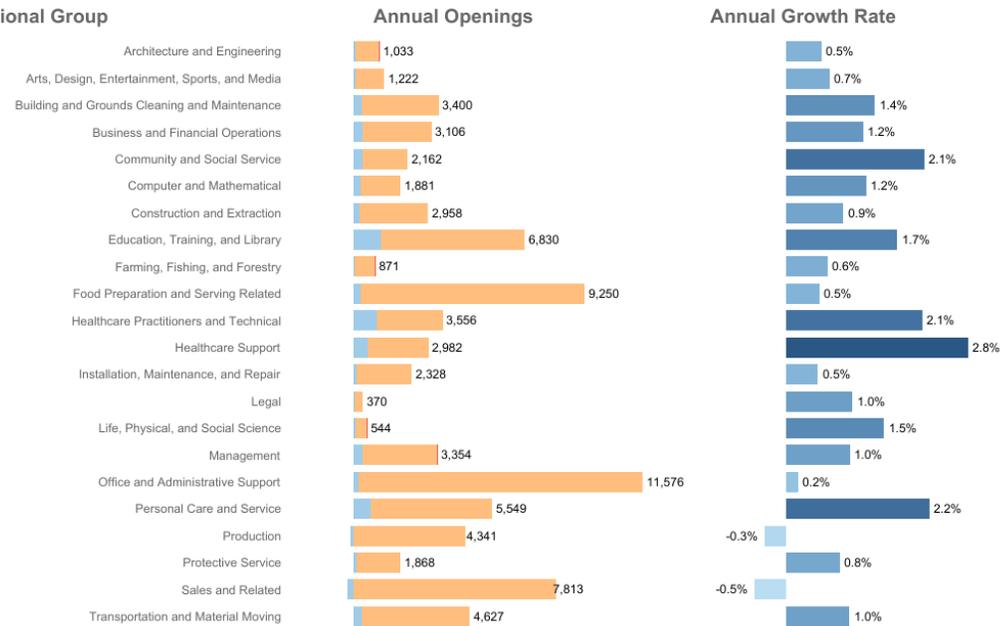


Annual Growth Rate

0.9% ↑



Occupational Group

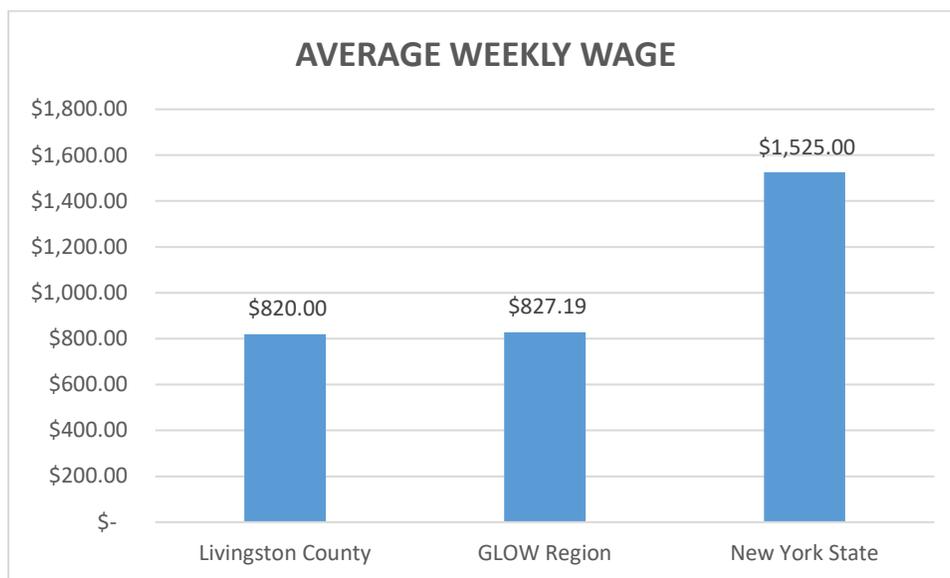


Source: New York State Department of Labor. Long-Term Occupational Projections. Accessed February 2023 at: <https://dol.ny.gov/long-term-occupational-projections>

³⁴ New York State Department of Labor. Bureau of Labor Market Information. Division of Research and Statistics. Significant Industries: a report to the workforce development system. 2021. Accessed February 2023 at: [https://dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/03/2021-significant-industries-finger-lakes_0.pdf#:~:text=Manufacturing%20Food%20manufacturing%20\(NAICS%20Industry,significant%20industries%20in%20the%20region](https://dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/03/2021-significant-industries-finger-lakes_0.pdf#:~:text=Manufacturing%20Food%20manufacturing%20(NAICS%20Industry,significant%20industries%20in%20the%20region)

Growth in health, social and personal care occupations is in keeping with the finding above that the region is aging and will require additional services to care for a growing aged population.

Wages, Income & Unemployment: While the foundation of the local regional economy is relatively stable – agriculture and agribusiness³⁵, health and human services³⁶, educational services³⁷ - the wages associated with these jobs are not high. In Livingston County, the Average Weekly Wage of employees in the private sector is \$820, just over half (53.8%) of the state (\$1,525).³⁸ It is important to remember that the state includes New York City and surrounding areas where income is skewed because of the finance industry. If we compare the Average Weekly Wage of Livingston County to neighboring counties within the GLOW region: Genesee, \$887; Orleans, \$792; and Wyoming, \$813, the number is much more comparable.³⁹



Source: Rockefeller Institute of Government. Data Hub. 2018. Accessed February 2023 via NYSCAA Data Hub.

Whether comparable to other communities in the GLOW region, low wages are seen as major barrier to Livingston County residents attaining and maintaining economic stability. Data compiled through the Community Initiatives Council’s Community Needs Survey show that nearly two-thirds (64.2%) of Survey

³⁵ US Department of Agriculture. America’s Farmers: Resilient Throughout the COVID Pandemic. July 29, 2021. Accessed February 2023 at: <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2020/09/24/americas-farmers-resilient-throughout-covid-pandemic#:~:text=Overall%2C%20agricultural%20exports%20during%20the,percent%20for%20non%2Dag%20exp%20orts>.

³⁶ Forbes Magazine. Recession-Proof Industries to Pump Up Your Portfolio. November 22, 2022. Accessed February 2023 at: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/qai/2022/11/22/recession-proof-industries-to-pump-up-your-portfolio/?sh=696ae8402afc>

³⁷ CNBC. The 4 Most “Recession-Proof” Industries to Work In, According to Economists. July 5, 2022. Accessed February 2023 at: <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/07/05/top-4-recession-proof-industries-to-work-in-according-to-economists.html>

³⁸ Rockefeller Institute of Government. Data Hub. 2018. Accessed February 2023 via NYSCAA Data Hub.

³⁹ Rockefeller Institute of Government. Data Hub. 2018. Accessed February 2023 via NYSCAA Data Hub.

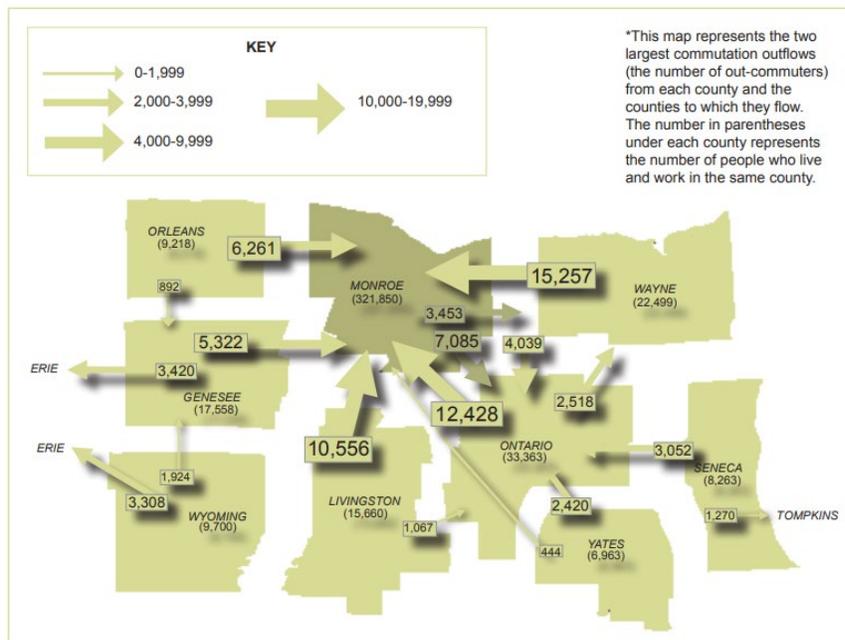
Respondents considered “lack of good work paying a livable wage” to be a top three concern facing Livingston County residents. Furthermore, of the Survey Respondents selecting Employment as a top three concern facing Livingston County families, 63.3% indicated that their “jobs don’t pay enough.”

The discrepancy between Median Household Income for Livingston County and that for the state is much less than that between wages. Livingston County’s Median income is \$64,467, 85% of the state’s \$75,157.⁴⁰ While it is possible that several factors are working together to influence these numbers, two likely contributors are low unemployment rates and the commutation patterns of workers in Livingston County.

While, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, unemployment rates across New York have rebounded to pre-COVID 19 pandemic lows (3.8% as of December 2022), rates in Livingston County are even lower (2.9%). Such a low unemployment rate means that almost everyone in Livingston County who could be working is working and, therefore, contributing to a household’s income and the area’s Median Household Income calculation.

Also, given that the average travel time to work in Livingston County is 25.4 minutes and that nearly one third (31.2%) of workers (ages 16 and up) in Livingston County have a commute time of 30 to 60 minutes, it is likely that many people are traveling outside of the County to work.⁴¹

Commutation Pattern among Workers in Livingston County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Compiled by NYS Department of Labor, Division of Research & Statistics

While recent data on the commutation patterns of Livingston County residents is difficult to access, historical data shows us that nearly half (46.5%) of workers commute to neighboring counties, with 36.1% commuting north to Monroe County and 3.6% commuting east to Ontario County.

Source: New York Department of Labor. Bureau of Labor Market Information. Division of Research and Statistics. Finger Lakes Regional Commutation Map. Accessed December 2018 at: <https://labor.ny.gov/stats/fin/floutcommutationmap2006-2010.pdf>

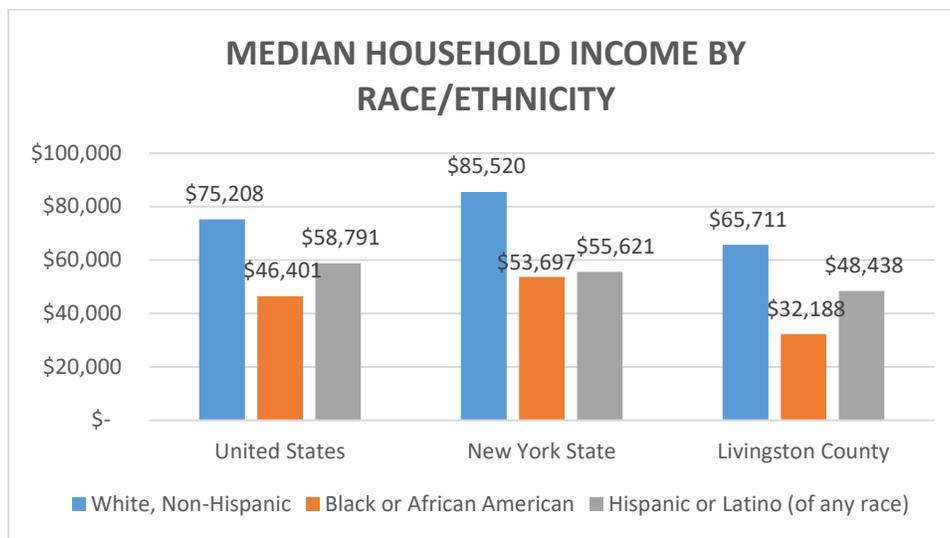
⁴⁰ US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates, 2017-2021. Accessed February 2023 via NYSCAA Data Hub.

⁴¹ US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates, 2017-2021. Table DP03.

As Average Weekly Wages in both Monroe (\$1,124) and Ontario County (\$1,035) are higher than in Livingston County, a large proportion of the workforce being employed in these counties would increase the Median Household Income for people residing in Livingston County while working outside.

While Livingston County’s Median Income (\$64,467) appears relatively favorable as compared to local wages, the Economic Policy Institute’s (EPI) Family Budget Calculator demonstrates that families here are not earning enough to “secure a modest yet adequate standard of living”. That is, for a “typical” two-parent, two child family in Livingston County, an income of \$93,377 per year is necessary to cover the cost of living.⁴² That figure is 45% more than the current Median Income.

Furthermore, when looked at for special populations within Livingston County, Median Household Income drops even more. Specifically, Median Household Income for residents reporting a minority racial/ethnic status is considerably lower than that of Whites. For example, the Median Household Income for those self-reporting as Hispanic (\$48,438) is less than three quarters of Whites (73.7%) and the Median Household Income for those self-reporting as Black/African American (\$32,188) is less than half of Whites (49.0%). These figures are roughly a half and a third, respectively, of what the EPI calculates as necessary for an adequate standard of living.⁴³

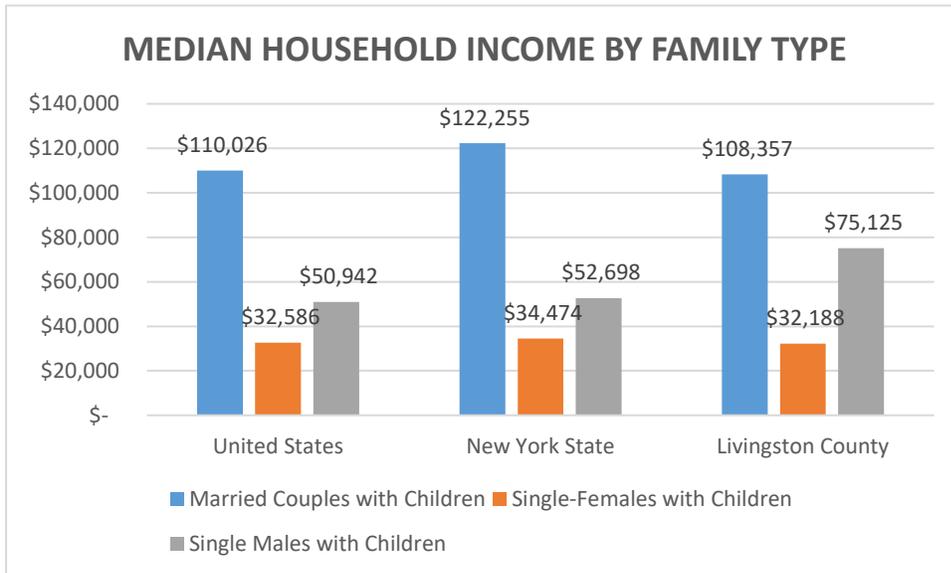


Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table S1903

Like the poverty numbers above, the sizable disparity in Median Household Income along racial and ethnic lines suggests a need for targeted outreach to low-income families of color.

⁴² Economic Policy Institute. Family Budget Map Fact Sheet. Family Budget Calculator. Livingston County, New York. Accessed April 2023 at: <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/budget-factsheets/#/1881>

⁴³ Economic Policy Institute. Family Budget Map Fact Sheet. Family Budget Calculator. Livingston County, New York. Accessed April 2023 at: <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/budget-factsheets/#/1881>



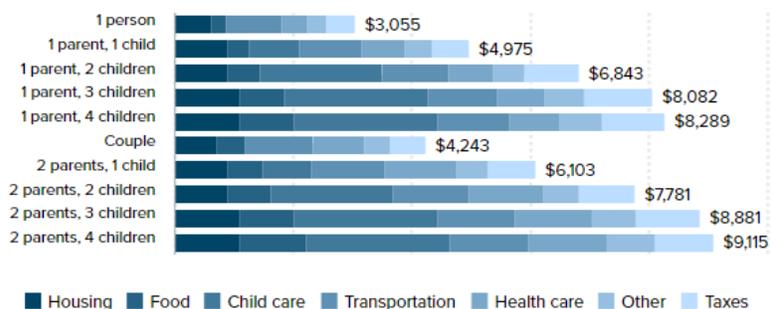
Similarly, the disparity in Median Income across family types, suggests a need for additional supports of single parents and, particularly, Single-Females with Children.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table S1903

While it makes sense that a single parent family would have roughly half the income of a two-parent family, the data above shows that Single-Females with Children in Livingston County earn only 30.0% of their two-parent family neighbors whereas Single-Males with Children earn 69.3%. Furthermore, according to the Economic Policy Institute, a single-parent family with two children would require an annual income of \$82,116 to secure a modest yet adequate standard of living in Livingston County. The Median Household income in Livingston County for Single-Females with Children is just 39% of this figure.⁴⁴ When combined with the data below on housing, transportation, and childcare costs, the low incomes of single mothers evidenced across Livingston County, as well as the state and nation, suggests these community members are struggling deeply.

Economic Policy Institute’s Budget Types for Different Family Types

Here’s how monthly budgets in Livingston County vary by family size and composition.



Source: Economic Policy Institute. Family Budget Map Fact Sheet. Family Budget Calculator. Livingston County, New York. Accessed April 2023 at: <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/budget-factsheets/#/1881>

⁴⁴ Economic Policy Institute. Family Budget Map Fact Sheet. Family Budget Calculator. Livingston County, New York. Accessed April 2023 at: <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/budget-factsheets/#/1881>

Participation in Assistance Programs: One way that low-income residents supplement their income is through participation in state and federal benefits programs. In New York State, the Temporary Assistance (TA) program provides temporary help for needy men, women, and children. TA is comprised of three primary programs:

1. Family Assistance (FA) which provides cash assistance to eligible needy families that include a minor child living with a parent or a caretaking relative. FA operates under federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) guidelines.
2. Safety Net Assistance (SNA) provides cash assistance to eligible needy individuals and families who are not eligible for FA. SNA is for: single adults; childless couples; children living apart from their adult relatives; families of those abusing drugs or alcohol; families of those refusing drug/alcohol screening, assessment, and/or treatment; or non-citizens who are eligible for temporary assistance, but who are not eligible for federal reimbursement.
3. Emergency Assistance provides payment assistance to help resolve an urgent need or situation, such as: homelessness, hunger, pending eviction, utility assistance, and domestic violence.⁴⁵

In Livingston County, less than 1% of the total population (0.8%) receives Temporary Assistance. This number is consistent with the GLOW Region as a whole (0.8%) and roughly one half the rate of New York State (1.5%).⁴⁶

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is another federal benefit program that allows eligible families to extend their earnings by offsetting the cost of food. In Livingston County, 13.7% of households participate in SNAP. This participation rate is similar to the GLOW Region (13.2%) and approximately 60% the participation rate of New York State (21.6%).⁴⁷

While public assistance utilization by race and ethnicity is not readily available at the local level, state and national data demonstrates that while more White people receive public assistance than any other group, people reporting a minority racial/ethnic status receive benefits at higher rates.^{48,49} Given the poverty and income data presented above, it is likely that a disproportionate number of People of Color receive public assistance in Livingston County. Again, this speaks to a relative need for targeted outreach to and programming for low-income People of Color.

⁴⁵ New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Temporary Assistance: Overview. Accessed February 2023 at: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/temporary-assistance/#programs>

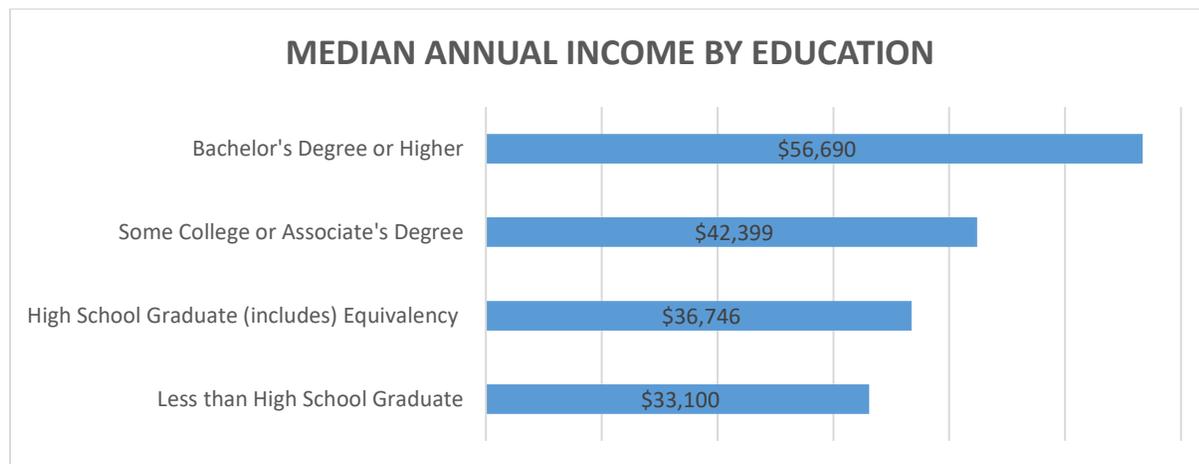
⁴⁶ New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Temporary and Disability Statistics. December 2022. Accessed February 2023 at: <https://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/2022/2022-12-stats.pdf>

⁴⁷ New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Accessed February 2023 via NYSCAA Data Hub.

⁴⁸ Administration for Children & Families. Characteristics of Financial Circumstances of TANF Recipients Fiscal Year 2021. Accessed February 2023 at: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ofa/fy2021_characteristics.pdf

⁴⁹ Hartline-Grafton, H. & Vollinger, E. Food Research & Action Center. New USDA Report Provides a Picture of Who Participates in SNAP. Accessed February 2023 at: <https://frac.org/blog/new-usda-report-provides-picture-of-who-participates-in-snap>

Education: Another way to increase income is to promote education. According to US Bureau of Labor Statistics, income and education are related. That is, the more education people have, the higher their income.⁵⁰ This relationship between education and earnings is evidenced locally. Per the table below, Livingston County residents with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher have a Median Annual Income of \$56,690. That is, they earn 71% more than Livingston County residents who do not graduate from High School (\$33,100).



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table S1501

As mentioned in the Community Profile section of this report, Livingston County and the surrounding area have a tradition of valuing education. Livingston County is home to the State University of New York at Geneseo as well as Elim Bible Institute & College. In addition, Genesee Community College, which has its main campus in Genesee County, has campus centers in the Livingston County communities of Dansville and Lima. Neighboring Monroe County is home to the Rochester Institute of Technology, the University of Rochester, and over a dozen other smaller private colleges as well as Monroe Community College. Ontario County is home to Finger Lakes Community College and Hobart & William Smith College.

With the large number of post-secondary opportunities in and around Livingston County it makes sense that the high school graduation rate locally is relatively high (90.6% vs. 86.1% across the state).⁵¹ That is, post-secondary education is part of the culture. It also, as mentioned in the Largest Industries section above, is a critical component of the local economy. However, it is notable that the relatively high High School graduation rate does not translate into high post-secondary completion rates in Livingston County. According to the US Census Bureau, only 28.9% of adults have a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher vs. 38.1% in New York State and 33.7% in the nation.⁵² Data from the Community Initiatives Council’s Community Needs Survey suggests that while there may be a number of options for post-secondary

⁵⁰ US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment Projections. Education Pays, 2021. Accessed February 2023 at: <https://www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm>

⁵¹ New York State Department of Education data. Accessed February 2023 via NYSCAA Data Hub.

⁵² US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 5Yr Estimates, 2017-2021. Accessed February 2023 via NYSCAA Data Hub.

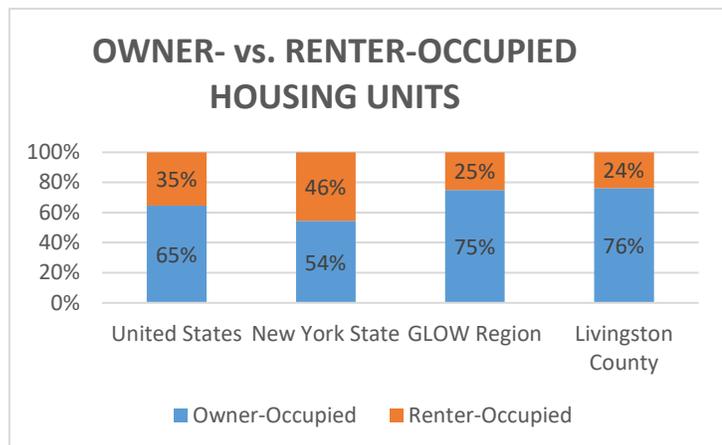
education locally, those options are not considered to be affordable by many residents. Specifically, 40.7% of Survey Respondents who selected Education as a top three concern in the area, indicated that “education after High School is too expensive.” Consequently, utilization by residents may be lower than would be expected, contributing to the relatively low post-secondary completion rates in Livingston County.

The data presented above suggests that many residents in Livingston County are at a disadvantage when it comes to earned income as a result of their relatively low educational attainment. Bolstering programming that supports transitions to higher education and retention once matriculated, including financing programs, may increase post-secondary graduation rates and increase earning potential for many residents.

2. Housing: Though, as demonstrated below, median housing values are relatively low in Livingston County as compared to New York State and the GLOW Region, the low wages associated with local jobs, make even the relatively affordable housing market unaffordable for many. In fact, data compiled through the Community Initiatives Council’s Community Needs Survey showed Housing to be among the biggest concerns locally. Specifically, 68.7% of Survey Respondents selected Housing as a top three problem facing Livingston County residents.

Housing Costs: As is typical of rural areas,⁵³ Livingston County has many fewer renters than homeowners. According to the US Census Bureau, of the 22,652 occupied housing units in Livingston County, over three quarters (76.3%) are owner-occupied.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table DP04



Though only about a quarter of housing units in Livingston County are occupied by renters, it is renters in Livingston County who are struggling disproportionately with regards to housing costs.

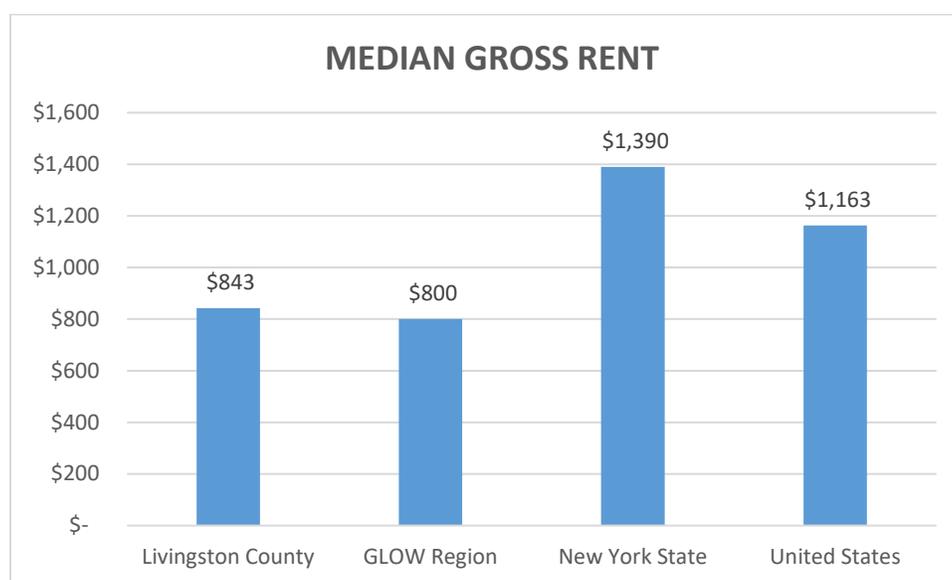
According to HUD, families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing costs (including rent/mortgage, utilities, taxes and fees) are considered “cost burdened” and may have

⁵³ Montgomery, David. “Who Owns a Home in America, in 12 Charts.” City Lab, August 8, 2018, Accessed February 2023 at: <https://www.citylab.com/life/2018/08/who-rents-their-home-heres-what-the-data-says/566933>

difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.⁵⁴ In Livingston County, over half of renters (52.9%) are “cost burdened” (vs. 22.4% of homeowners).⁵⁵

The pervasiveness of “cost burden” among renters is born out in the data collected through the Community Initiatives Council’s Community Needs Survey. Specifically, over half (50.9%) of Survey Respondents who selected Housing as a top three problem facing families in Livingston County indicated that “rent is too high”. Furthermore, almost two-thirds (64.3%) of low-income (i.e., CSBG Eligible) Survey Respondents who selected Housing as a top three problem indicated that “rent is too high”.

This finding is not surprising given the relatively high rental costs and relatively low wages available in the County (see Wages, Income & Unemployment section above). That is, in Livingston County, the Median Gross Rent (i.e., including utilities and heating fuel) is lower than the state and nation, but higher than the GLOW Region as a whole.



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table DP04

Specifically, Livingston County’s Median Gross Rent (\$843/month) is 61% of New York State’s (\$1,390/month) and 72% of the nation’s (\$1,163/month), but 105% of the GLOW Region’s (\$800/month). [It is important to note here that, like with the wage and income numbers reported above, New York State’s housing costs are skewed due to the extreme costs in and around New York City.]

Per the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Livingston County is \$1,039/month. This figure is the same as in Orleans County, but higher than in neighboring Genesee and Wyoming Counties.

⁵⁴ US Department of Housing & Urban Development. HUD User. PD&R Edge online magazine. Rental Burdens: Rethinking Affordability Measures. Accessed February 2023 at: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr_edge_featd_article_092214.html#:~:text=HUD%20defines%20cost%2Dburdene d%20families,of%20one's%20income%20on%20rent.

⁵⁵ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table DP04.

HUD Fair Market Rents (FMR)

	Efficiency	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Genesee County	\$560	\$686	\$833	\$1,124	\$1,211
Livingston County	\$727	\$828	\$1,039	\$1,284	\$1,409
Orleans County	\$727	\$828	\$1,039	\$1,284	\$1,409
Wyoming County	\$527	\$575	\$757	\$994	\$1,027
New York	\$894	\$968	\$1,173	\$1,492	\$1,644

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2022. Accessed February 2023 via NYSCAA Data Hub.

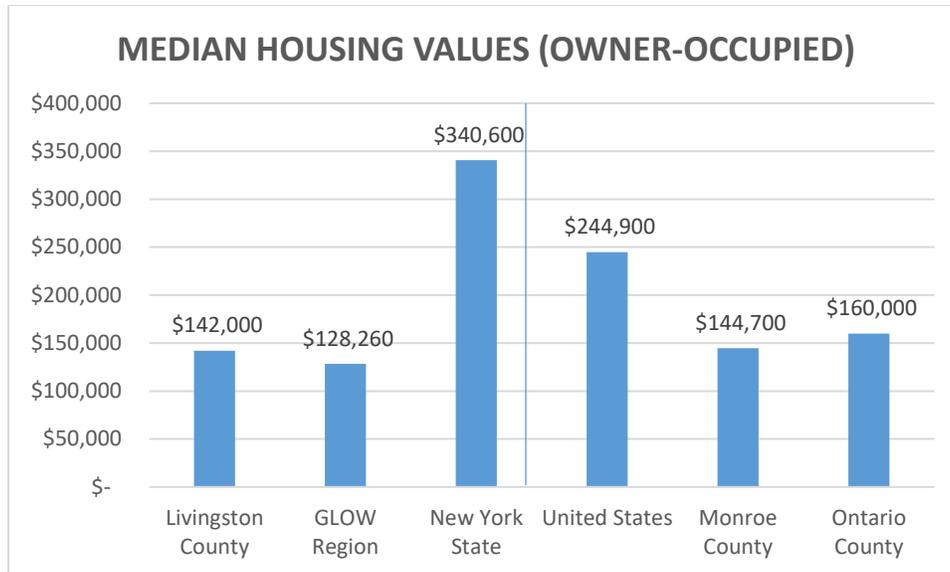
With an Average Weekly Wage of \$820 for jobs in Livingston County, a family with one adult working full-time, pays 29.3% of income for a two-bedroom apartment and is, therefore, a fraction of a percentage under the threshold for “cost burdened.”

As mentioned above, homeowners in Livingston County are “cost burdened” at a much lower rate than renters (22.4% vs. 52.9%). While homeowners across the state and nation also fare better than renters on this measure, the difference between homeowners in Livingston County who are “cost burdened” and those across the state who are “cost burdened” is almost a full 10 percentage points. That is, in Livingston County just over 1 in 5 (22.4%) homeowners spends more than 30% of their income on housing costs (i.e., mortgage, utilities, heating fuel, taxes and fees) vs. nearly one-third of homeowners (32.6%) across New York State.⁵⁶

This discrepancy, in favor of Livingston County, could be due to the significant number of workers who commute out of Livingston County to Monroe and Ontario County for work. Given Livingston County’s proximity to major north/south and east/west routes (i.e., Interstate 390 and State Routes 5 & 20) and its relatively low Median Home Values, Livingston County is a reasonable bedroom community⁵⁷ for both Monroe and Ontario Counties where ages and Home Values are higher (i.e., Average Weekly Wages of \$1,124 and \$1,035, respectively and Median Housing Values of \$144,700 and \$160,000).

⁵⁶ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table DP04.

⁵⁷ Merriam-Webster Dictionary. “Bedroom Community” Accessed January 2019 at: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bedroom%20community>



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table DP04

However, as mentioned above, commutes to Monroe and Ontario Counties for employment increase transportation costs for workers. Thus, some of the income savings incurred by living in Livingston County where owning a home is relatively affordable may, in turn, be lost to the cost of commuting.

Interestingly, data compiled through the Community Initiative Council’s Community Needs Survey has more Livingston County residents reporting high mortgage payments as an issue than the US Census Bureau statistics bear out. Specifically, of the Survey Respondents who selected Housing as a top three concern in Livingston County, nearly 30% (28.7%) indicated that their “mortgage payment is too high.” This number is more than six percentage points higher than the Census Bureau’s finding reported above that 22.4% of homeowners in Livingston County are “cost burdened”. The discrepancy in these findings could be due to sampling error or to the wording of the Community Needs Survey question. However, it could also suggest that the 30% rule is archaic and based on spending patterns that were in place in the late 1960s (i.e., when the rule was developed). In a more modern earning/spending environment, a benchmark of 30% may not be relevant when considering the actual impact of housing costs on overall financial well-being.⁵⁸⁵⁹ That is, for some spending less than 30% of income on housing may be burdensome while for others spending over 30% may not be.

Housing Stock: Though housing units are relatively new in Livingston County (i.e., Median Year Built is 1970) as compared to New York State (i.e., Median Year Built is 1954), nearly two-thirds (64.4%) of Livingston County’s housing units were built prior to 1979.⁶⁰ Age of housing stock is relevant as lead paint concerns are common in housing units built prior to 1979. Abatement procedures can be performed to reduce the risk of lead poisoning, however, the Environmental Protection Agency

⁵⁸ Earnest. How Much Should I Spend on Housing? Ignore the 30% Rule. September 17, 2015. Accessed February 2023 at: <https://www.earnest.com/blog/rent-and-the-30-percent-rule/>

⁵⁹ Matthews, C. Why Should You Only Spend 30% of Your Income on Housing? August 4, 2015. Accessed February 2023 at: <http://fortune.com/2015/08/04/housing-30-percent-rule/>

⁶⁰ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021. Accessed February 2023 via NYSCAA Data Hub.

estimates that the average lead abatement project costs \$8 to \$15 per square foot or, roughly, \$10,000 for a home that is 1,200 to 2,000 square feet.⁶¹ In addition to lead, older homes tend to require more maintenance as major systems fail and require replacing. They also do not have the same energy efficiency as newer homes, resulting in increased heating/cooling costs.

As rental units in Livingston County tend to be older than owner-occupied housing units in Livingston County (i.e., 73.3% of renter-occupied vs. 70.1% of owner-occupied built prior to 1979), these factors can contribute to higher rates of “cost burden” among renters than homeowners. While renters may not be directly responsible for maintenance costs and some may have heating/cooling costs included in their rent, these expenses are factored into rent and are included in gross rental costs calculated by the Census Bureau and reported above.

Relatedly, data compiled through the Community Initiatives Council’s Community Needs Survey show that roughly 30% of Survey Respondents who indicated Housing is a top three concern in Livingston County selected “house needs too many repairs” (29.1%) and “house is not energy efficient” (31.3%) as issues. These findings suggest that older housing stock does impact housing costs for Livingston County residents.

3. Factors Impacting Ability to Work: Often people’s ability to engage in the workforce at a level necessary to meet their families’ needs is impacted by factors outside of the economy. Access to supportive services such as transportation and childcare are critical to a successful work experience. Similarly, physical and mental wellness are necessary for workplace productivity.

Families in Livingston County face significant barriers to achieving economic security. As described above, many of the low-income families in Livingston County work in low wage jobs. According to the Working Poor Families Project, these jobs tend to require working evenings and weekends, which leads to a significant childcare burden on families with young children.⁶² In addition, low-income workers, particularly those in rural areas, like much of Livingston County, often have significant commutes to their jobs (i.e., over half of workers commute out of the County for work), resulting in high transportation costs.⁶³ With low wages and the resulting relatively high housing costs (as described in the Housing section above), childcare, and transportation costs, families have difficulty affording other basic necessities, including healthy foods.

Transportation: Livingston County’s seat, Geneseo, is located approximately 35 miles south of Rochester, New York State’s third largest city and approximately 63 miles east of Buffalo, New York State’s second

⁶¹ Fixr (2017). Lead Paint Removal Costs. Accessed February 2023 at: <https://www.fixr.com/costs/lead-paint-removal>

⁶² Roberts, Povich & Mather (2013). “Low-Income Working Families: The Growing Economic Gap.” The Working Poor Families Project. Policy Brief v Winter 2012-2013. Accessed February 2023 at: http://www.hartfordinfo.org/issues/wsd/FamiliesandChildren/Winter-2012_2013-WPFP-Data-Brief.pdf

⁶³ Roberts, Povich & Mather (2013). “Low-Income Working Families: The Growing Economic Gap.” The Working Poor Families Project. Policy Brief v Winter 2012-2013. Accessed February 2023 at: http://www.hartfordinfo.org/issues/wsd/FamiliesandChildren/Winter-2012_2013-WPFP-Data-Brief.pdf

largest city. Interstate highways and State Routes, including Interstate 90, Interstate 390, and State Routes 5 & 20, connect the region to these major economic centers. State Routes 5 & 20 also connect Livingston County to Ontario County where, like Rochester, there are higher concentrations of good paying jobs as well as health and human service providers that are accessible to residents of Livingston County.

Genesee/Finger Lakes Economic Development District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy provides a description of the local public transportation system:

"RTS Livingston, the County's public transit system, is a subsidiary of the Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority (RGRTA). LATS provides fixed route public transportation throughout the County. Medical shuttles provide access to Livingston County and Rochester-area medical centers. Paratransit service is available for individuals with a disability who cannot travel to or from a LATS bus stop; or board, ride or disembark from the regular LATS bus for any reason."⁶⁴

Despite these public transportation resources, travel in and around Livingston County is dominated by personal vehicles. The majority of households (63.73%) have 2 or more cars⁶⁵ and the large majority of workers commute via car, truck, or van (86.3%). Of those commuting by car, truck, or van, more than nine out of ten (90.7%) drive alone vs. carpooling. In contrast, only 0.6% of the workforce in Livingston County uses public transportation to get to work. This number is on par with the GLOW Region as a whole where 0.4% of workers commute via public transportation. However, it is notably less than New York State (24.7%) and even the nation (4.2%).⁶⁶ [Once again, it is important to note that public transportation usership numbers for New York State are likely skewed toward usership because of the important role this resource plays in New York City.]

Given the low utilization rates of public transportation demonstrated across Livingston County, the cost of commuting to work must be considered, particularly for low-income workers. According to The Bureau of Labor Statistics, the percentage of after tax income spent on gasoline for the lowest income workers is approximately 8% vs. 2% for the highest income workers.⁶⁷ Adding in high housing costs (discussed above in the Housing section), fuel and housing costs can account for nearly half of a low-wage worker's monthly income.⁶⁸ This leaves little room for childcare costs, medical costs, other necessities, and discretionary spending.

⁶⁴ Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council. Genesee/Finger Lakes Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2021-25. Accessed February 2023 at: https://webgen1files.revize.com/geneseeny/Document%20Center/Program%20Areas/2021_CEDS%20ADOPTED.pdf

⁶⁵ US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2017-21, 5yr. Table B08201. Accessed February 2023.

⁶⁶ US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 20117-2021, 5yr. Table B08101. Accessed March 2023.

⁶⁷ Peck, E. High gas prices hit low-income Americans the hardest. Axios Markets. June 10, 2022. Accessed March 2023 at: <https://www.axios.com/2022/06/10/high-gas-prices-low-income-us-biden>

⁶⁸ Freemark, Y. What Rising Gas and Rent Prices Mean for Families with Low Incomes. Urban Institute. March 17, 2022. Accessed March 2023 at: <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/what-rising-gas-and-rent-prices-mean-families-low-incomes>

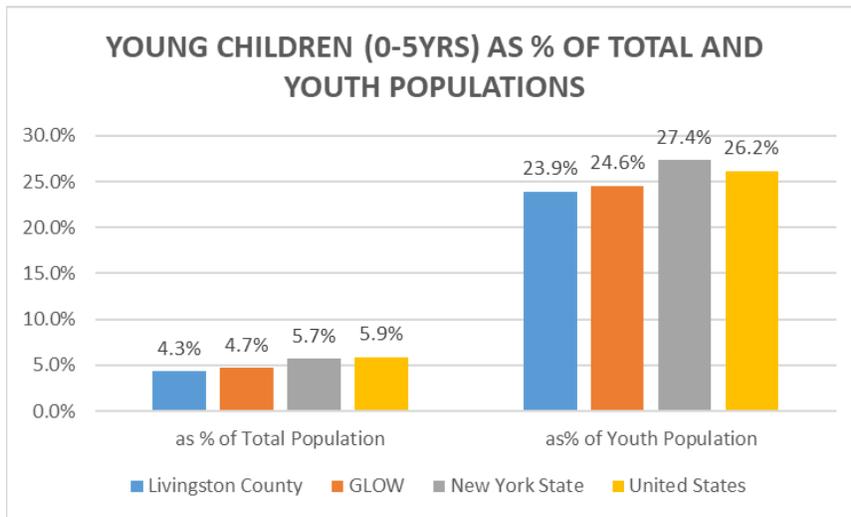
As mentioned above (see Income section), data from the Community Initiatives Council’s Community Needs Survey confirms that transportation is a barrier to employment for Livingston County residents. Of the Survey Respondents who selected Transportation as a top three concern in the County, 41.7% said they did not “have personal transportation to get to work or appointments.” Likewise of those who selected Employment as a top three concern in the County, roughly one in five indicated that access to personal transportation (19.5%) and access to public transportation (23.7%) are barriers to their ability to obtain and maintain a job paying a livable wage.

Fortunately, issues around transportation are well known to local government. In 2016, Livingston County was awarded a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) grant from the Genesee Transportation Council for a County Transportation Connectivity Plan. The project examines the existing transportation network and provides recommendations for improving the connections between people, jobs, goods, and the marketplace.

Childcare: Like transportation, affordable, reliable childcare is critical to families in their efforts to achieve and maintain economic stability. It allows them the time necessary to find, maintain, and/or train for employment. It also gives them the peace of mind necessary to focus on work tasks; knowing that their children are well attended to and cared for by skilled providers reduces stress and worry which can interfere with work attendance and productivity on the job.

High quality childcare is also important for children: early education sets them on the right path for lifelong learning. For low-income children, in particular, early education has significant impacts: it can reduce the achievement gaps evidenced between them and their more affluent peers. Specifically, research has shown that, starting in infancy, low-income children lag behind in learning, knowledge, and social-emotional development. These gaps persist and become progressively wider as low-income children age with low-income middle schoolers showing decreased self-monitoring skills and school attendance. These youth are then more likely to dropout and less likely to engage in post-secondary school.⁶⁹ Given the benefits to the whole family, access to high quality, affordable childcare, particularly for low-income families, is vital.

⁶⁹ Child Trends (2014). *Five Ways Poverty Harms Children*. Accessed March 2023 at: <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/5-ways-poverty-harms-children>



In Livingston County there are approximately 2652 young children, ages 0-5years. This number represents 4.3% of the total population of Livingston County and 23.9% of the youth population in Livingston County.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Table B09001

These 2652 children are preschool age and require some sort of childcare, whether provided by family members or professional childcare staff, in order for their parents to participate in the workforce. Furthermore, affordable high-quality childcare, as mentioned above, is critical to the social, emotional, and educational trajectories of the 13.3% of Livingston County children under 5 years who live below the federal poverty level.⁷⁰

Per the Child Care Council which provides information, training, and resources to parents, childcare providers, and businesses in Monroe, Livingston and Wayne counties, there are 42 licensed/registered childcare providers in Livingston County. These care providers have a total capacity for serving approximately 1780 children through Child Care Centers, Family Child Care, and Group Family Child Care as well as School Aged Programs for youth ages 5-12years.

The table to the right shows childcare capacity by school district in Livingston County. Not surprisingly, the largest communities in the County have the highest number of available childcare slots: Geneseo, Dansville, Livonia, and Avon.

Childcare Capacity by Livingston County School District			
School District	# of Providers	Licensed Capacity	Vacancies
Avon	5	251	38
Caledonia-Mumford	4	122	2
Dalton-Nunda	2	34	10
Dansville	5	424	54
Geneseo	5	439	10
Honeoye Falls-Lima	1	47	0
Livonia	10	295	17
Mt Morris	2	36	6
York	3	24	2
TOTAL:	37	1672	139

Source: Data provided by Child Care Council, Inc. for licensed/registered childcare providers in Livingston County, NY. May 2023.

⁷⁰ US Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 20117-21, 5yr. Table B08101.

Mount Morris, only roughly 800 people smaller in total population than Dansville, has just 8% of Dansville’s slots (36 vs. 424). Given that Mount Morris has among the highest poverty rates in Livingston County, this lack of childcare resources may pose an additional barrier to low-income families in and around that community attaining and maintaining economic stability. Lima (represented above as Honeoye Falls-Lima) currently has just 1 licensed provider and no vacancies. Again, access to this critical resource appears severely limited in Lima as well.

Supply by Modality & Age Group				
Modality	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Child Care Centers	92	118	429	189
Family Child Care	26	0	52	26
Group Family Child Care	36	0	72	36
School Age Program	0	0	0	704
TOTAL:	154	118	553	955

Per the Child Care Council, what stands out most when examining childcare capacity in Livingston County is the combined Infant and Toddler capacity for the entire county: just 272 slots.

Source: Data provided by Child Care Council, Inc. for licensed/registered childcare providers in Livingston County, NY. May 2023.

Data compiled through the Community Initiatives Council’s Community Needs Survey supports the finding that access to childcare, particularly for our youngest children, is limited in Livingston County. That is, one third of Survey Respondents (33.4%) selected Childcare as a Top 3 Problem facing local families. Further, of those, nearly two-thirds (66.1%) specified a “lack of affordable childcare for infants and toddlers (0- 2yrs).”

In addition to ease of access, affordability can be a barrier to low-income families in need of childcare. The table below shows the Average Weekly Rates for full-time childcare in Child Care Centers, Family Child Care, and Group Family Child Care settings across Livingston County.

Average Rates for Child Care by Age Group and Type, 2023				
Care Type (Full Time, Weekly)	Infant - Average Cost	Toddler - Average Cost	Preschool - Average Cost	School Age - Average Cost
Child Care Center	\$287.14	\$277.86	\$264.38	\$234.00
Family Child Care	\$186.00	\$174.50	\$172.00	\$161.50
Group Family Child Care	\$200.33	\$196.33	\$195.00	\$162.86

Source: Data provided by Child Care Council, Inc. for licensed/registered childcare providers in Livingston County, NY. May 2023.

While rates vary, the average cost for Infant, Toddler, and Preschool care hovers around \$11,000 annually for one child. That amounts to 17% of the region’s Median Income (\$64,467). According to the Department of Health and Human Services, childcare is affordable if it costs no more than 7% of a household’s income.⁷¹ Thus, for many families, childcare in Livingston County is simply not affordable.

As a result, many parents are forced to make a difficult decision: compromise the quality of care provided to their children during the early childhood years or their own earning potential as they

⁷¹ USA Facts. How Much are Families Spending on Childcare? March 10, 2022. Accessed May 2023 at: <https://usafacts.org/articles/how-much-are-families-spending-on-childcare/>

attempt to configure work schedules around childcare obligations. Data compiled through the Community Initiative Council’s Community Needs Survey suggest that childcare is a barrier to families obtaining and maintaining employment. Specifically, of the Survey Respondents selecting Employment as a top three concern in Livingston County, over one quarter (26.0%) of all respondents and 30.0% of low-income Survey Respondents indicated that they “don’t have affordable childcare or preschool programming to allow [them] to work.”

Health: As with childcare, many families, particularly those with limited income, face decisions about nutrition, physical activity, and other health-related factors that affect their overall health and well-being and ultimately their ability to attain and maintain economic stability.

Over a decade of research on social determinants of health has revealed that certain demographic and social factors make people more susceptible to a range of emotional, social, and physical challenges. That is, our health is in part determined by access to resources and opportunities in the areas of education, health care, the built environment, social networks, and economics.⁷²

Social determinants of health like socio-economic status, cultural norms among family and community members, and access to basic needs (e.g., food) and supportive services (e.g., childcare and transportation services) can result in disproportionate suffering from chronic and acute health conditions like lead poisoning (as described above in the Housing section), diabetes, hypertension, and mental ill health and substance use disorders.

While Health was not identified as a top concern in the Community Initiative Council’s Community Needs Survey, access to Food did rank fifth for both Overall and Low-Income Survey Respondents. Specifically, when asked to rank the top problems facing families in Livingston County, 36.7% of the Overall sample and 39.7% of the Low-Income sample said “not enough food”. While the issue with access to food locally seems more economic than place-based (i.e., 80% of Survey Respondents indicated that they did “not [have] enough money to purchase food” while fewer than 20% indicated that they had a lack of: preferred food, transportation to shop, or necessary appliances and time to prepare food), the effect on Livingston County residents is the same: poor health indicators.

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, “having access to nutritious food is a basic human need” and “lack of access to affordable nutritious food [is] associated with increased risk for multiple chronic health conditions” such as: obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.⁷³

Social Determinants of Health



Social Determinants of Health
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Healthy People 2030

⁷² US Department of Health and Human Services. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Healthy People 2030. Accessed March 2023 at: <https://health.gov/healthypeople>

⁷³ US Department of Health and Human Services. National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Food Accessibility, Insecurity and Health. Accessed March 2023 at: <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/resources/understanding-health-disparities/food-accessibility-insecurity-and-health->

The table below, excerpted from the Livingston County Health Profile, shows that 71.4% of Livingston County residents are obese with 10.4% reporting physician-diagnosed diabetes and 29.3% reporting physician-diagnosed hypertension.

Chronic Disease		
Inactive lifestyles and poor diets may lead to obesity, a risk factor for developing diabetes, hypertension and other chronic illnesses. Rates of several chronic conditions are listed below:		
	Obese or overweight adults	71.4%
	Physician-diagnosed diabetes	10.4%
 High Blood Pressure	Physician-diagnosed hypertension	29.3%

Source: Common Ground Health. Livingston County Health Profile: 2020. Accessed March 2023 at: <https://www.commongroundhealth.org/insights/county-data/livingston-county>

While the percentages of adults diagnosed with diabetes and hypertension in Livingston County are comparable to New York State (11.4% physician-diagnosed diabetes and 30.5% physician-diagnosed hypertension), Livingston County has a much higher percentage of obese and overweight adults than the state (63.6% in New York State).⁷⁴

Research has linked overweight and obesity to food insecurity. Paradoxically, children and adults with limited or uncertain access to food appear to be at increased risk for negative health outcomes, including obesity. That is, reduced frequency, quality and variety of food consumed correlates with higher risk of obesity.⁷⁵ Research also suggests that residents of neighborhoods with fewer fresh produce sources and plentiful fast-food and convenience stores are at higher risk of obesity.⁷⁶

In Livingston County, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data from 2021 shows that nearly one quarter of residents (24.9%) reported feeling food insecure in the month leading up to their participation in the survey. Additionally, data from the US Census County Business Patterns shows that greater than 50% of restaurants in Livingston County’s more urban areas are “limited service”.

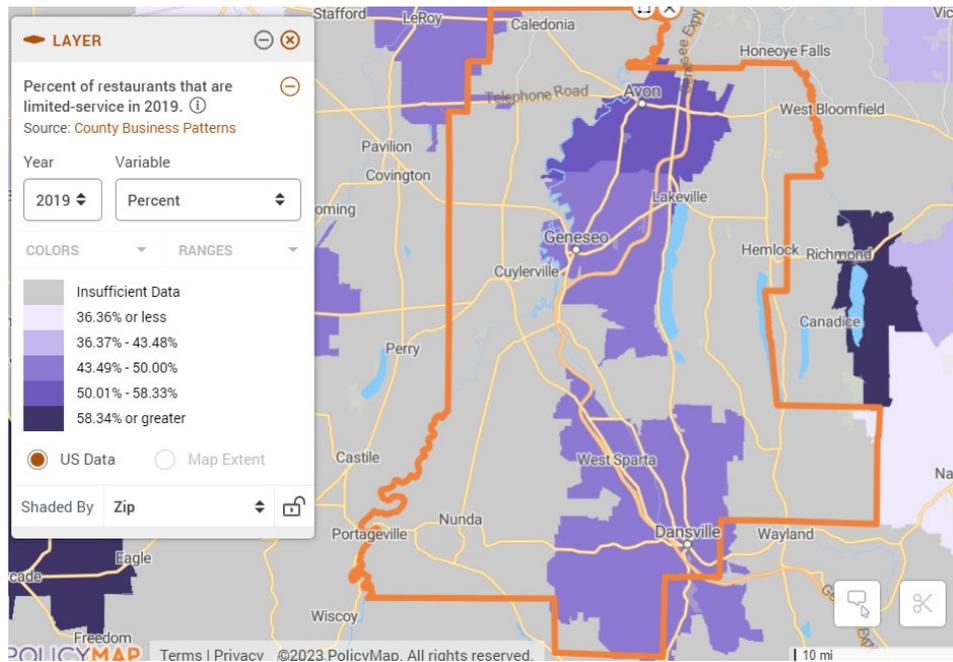
[outcomes.html#:~:text=Food%20insecurity%20and%20the%20lack,disorders%20and%20other%20chronic%20diseases%20.](#)

⁷⁴ US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data. Explore BRFSS Data by Location. New York State. Accessed April 2023 at: <https://nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSPrevalence/>

⁷⁵ US Department of Health & Human Services. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Healthy People 2030. Food Insecurity. Accessed April 2023 at: <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity>

⁷⁶ US Department of Health & Human Services. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Healthy People 2030. Access to Foods that Support Health Dietary Patters. Accessed April 2023 at: <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/access-foods-support-healthy-dietary-patterns>

Limited-Service Restaurants as Percentage of Food Establishments in Livingston County



Source: US Census Business County Patters. 2019. Accessed via PolicyMap April 2023 at: <https://www.policymap.com/newmaps#/>

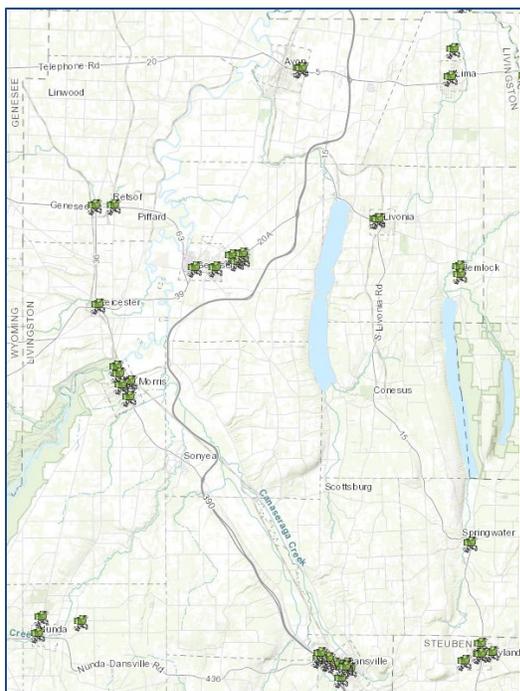
Limited-Service Restaurants are establishments where customers generally order or select items and pay before eating (e.g., fast food restaurants). Though many fast-food restaurants are working to improve the nutritional value of their offerings,⁷⁷ traditionally, Limited-Service Restaurants have offered less healthy options.

There are grocery stores and health food stores throughout the region where residents can purchase nutritionally dense foods and, in fact, none of the communities in Livingston County has been designated Limited Supermarket Access areas by the Reinvestment Fund.⁷⁸ However, the relatively high proportion of fast-food access points and the limited number of SNAP and WIC retailers may be contributing to the high obesity rates in the region.

⁷⁷ Stanley, C. Quick Stats for Quick Service Restaurants. Revel Systems. August 2018. Accessed January 2019 at: <https://revelsystems.com/blog/2018/08/07/quick-stats-for-quick-service-restaurants>

⁷⁸ Reinvestment Fund. Limited Supermarket Access Status. 2016. Accessed April 2023 at: <https://www.reinvestment.com/research/limited-supermarket-analysis/>

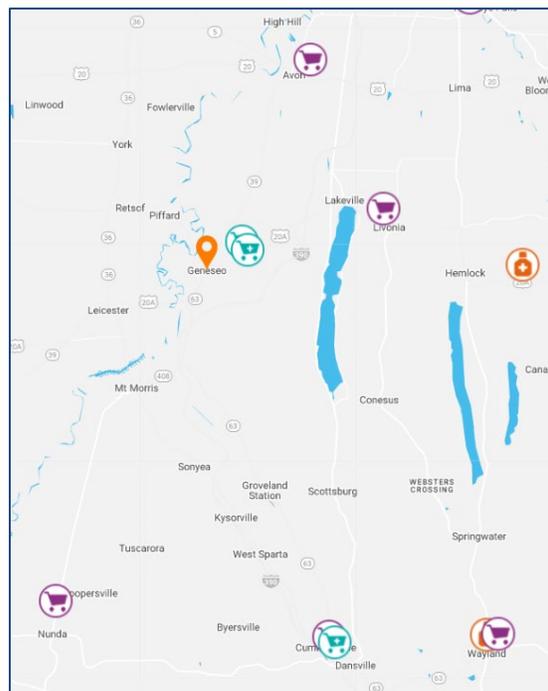
SNAP Retail Locations in Livingston County



Source: US Department of Agriculture Food & Nutrition Services. SNAP Retail Locator. Accessed April 2023 at:

<https://usda-fns.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e1f3028b217344d78b324193b10375e4>

WIC Retail Locations in Livingston County



Source: WIC Vendors in New York State. Find A WIC Store mapping feature. Accessed April 2023 at:

<https://nyswicvendors.com/find-a-wic-store/>

The low density of SNAP and WIC retailers across the region may also play a role the Community Initiatives Council’s Community Needs Survey’s finding that “not enough money to purchase food” was listed as the top issue related to food access.

According to the Borgen Project, a non-profit dedicated to ending poverty and hunger:

“Obesity can lead to poverty. The cycle of poverty and obesity together is a dangerous trap that imprisons many. For example, poverty leads to no access to healthy food and exercise, eventually leading to obesity. Obesity leads to further health complications and illnesses which may leave a person saddled with expensive medical bills. Lack of health, in general, leads to lower energy levels and even worsening mental health so that a person is unequipped with the energy and confidence to change their economic standing. Thus, obesity perpetuates poverty.”⁷⁹

⁷⁹ The Borgen Project. Ending the Cycle of Poverty and Obesity. Accessed April 2023 at: <https://borgenproject.org/the-cycle-of-poverty-and-obesity/#:~:text=The%20cycle%20of%20poverty%20and%20obesity%20together%20is%20a%20dangerous,saddle%20with%20expensive%20medical%20bills.>

Addressing food access, particularly in a community where a quarter (24.9%) of residents report food insecurity and nearly three-quarters (71.4%) are overweight or obese, is critical to alleviating the broad impacts of hunger on health and economic security.

E. Summary/Conclusions

Community Needs Survey: From January to March 2023, the Community Initiatives Council gathered Livingston County residents' input on local barriers to economic stability as well as community strengths via a Community Needs Survey. Three hundred thirty-five people responded to the survey. Respondents who reported demographic information were reasonably representative of the community at large with regards to their distribution across Federal Poverty Levels and race/ethnicity. However, the majority (71.7%) of survey respondents were female and the sample was skewed toward the older demographic as youth were not actively targeted. The survey sample included representation from each of the 17 communities in Livingston County.

The first component of the Community Needs Survey asked respondents to select from a list of 8 options the three most pressing problems or biggest barriers to economic security for low-income families in Livingston County. Options included:

- 1) Not enough food,
- 2) Housing costs are too high,
- 3) Lack of good work paying a livable wage,
- 4) Lack of education,
- 5) Unsafe neighborhoods,
- 6) Childcare,
- 7) Transportation, and
- 8) Poor health.

Over two-thirds (69%) of Survey Respondents indicated that "housing costs" are a Top 3 Problem facing families in Livingston County while just under two-thirds (64%) indicated that "lack of good work paying a livable wage" is a Top 3 Problem. Less than half of Survey Respondents indicated that the remaining issues were among the top three concerns for them and/or their friends and family. This finding suggests that Housing and Employment are the most pervasive concerns for Livingston County residents.

After selecting their top three concerns, Survey Respondents were asked to drill down and identify the specific issues they and their friends/family have experienced in relation to the broader concerns. Eight out of ten of the issues identified by 20% or more of Survey Respondents were related to Housing and Employment. "Not enough money to purchase food" and "lack of affordable childcare for infants and toddlers (0-2yrs)" were the only issues mentioned by 20% or more of Survey Respondents in areas of concern outside of Housing and Employment.

An examination of the survey data by income level shows that, when responses are isolated to only those at the low end of the income spectrum, the degree of concern given to Housing and Employment flips. That is, while for the overall sample, Housing received the most support as a top problem facing families in Livingston County and Employment received the second most, more Survey Respondents living at or under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level selected Employment as the top concern. Specifically, 73% of Survey Respondents living at or below 200% of poverty ranked Employment as a top

concern while 72% ranked Housing. As with the overall group, these two concerns were selected notably more than the third. The consistency in responses suggests the salience of these two issues to Livingston County residents across the income spectrum.

Interaction between the Local Economy, Income, and Housing: Agriculture and related agribusiness, including dairy production and food processing, comprise a large and growing sector of the County's economy. As such, the region hosts a cluster of Food and Beverage Industry players, including: Kraft Foods, Barilla America, New York Bean, Once Again Nut Butter, Archer Daniel Midland (ADM), Sweeteners Plus, Monk's Bread, Land o Lakes, and Seneca Foods. The region is also rich in natural resources and industries have grown up around harvesting and processing those resources (e.g., American Rock Salt).

In addition to being an ideal location for agriculture, agribusiness, and the harvesting and processing of natural resources, Livingston County lies just to the south, and within commuting distance, of Rochester, a major industrial center known for innovation and entrepreneurship. And, in fact, a substantial proportion of the workforce in Livingston County (36.1%) commutes north to Monroe County for employment.

Unfortunately, for those who do not commute, wages for local jobs are relatively low. In Livingston County, the Average Weekly Wage of employees in the private sector, covered by unemployment insurance is \$820.00, just over half (53.8%) of the state (\$1,525.00). Concerns around employment, particularly low wages, are recognized by community members as a major barrier to Livingston County residents' ability to attain and maintain economic stability. Specifically, data compiled through the Community Initiatives Council's Community Needs Survey show that nearly two-thirds (64.2%) of Survey Respondents considered "lack of good work paying a livable wage" (i.e., Employment) to be a top three concern facing Livingston County residents. Furthermore, of those Survey Respondents who selected Employment as a top three concern, 63.3% indicated that their "jobs don't pay enough."

Unfortunately for many, the low wages associated with local jobs make even the relatively affordable housing market unaffordable. Though only about a quarter of housing units in Livingston County are occupied by renters (23.7%), it is renters in Livingston County who are struggling disproportionately with regards to housing costs. According to HUD, families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing costs (including rent/mortgage, utilities, taxes and fees) are considered "cost burdened" and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care. In Livingston County, over half of renters (52.9%) are "cost burdened." Specifically, with Median Gross Rent at \$843 and the US Department of Housing & Urban Development's Fair Market Rent set at \$1,039/month for a two-bedroom apartment in Livingston County, a single adult working full-time, or a family with one adult working full-time, pays just very close to 30% (29.3%) of their income for rent and is, for all intents and purposes, "cost burdened."

Data compiled through the Community Initiatives Council's Community Needs Survey supports the finding that many Livingston County residents, particularly renters, find housing to be among the biggest barriers to attaining and maintaining economic stability. Specifically, 68.7% of Survey Respondents selected Housing as a top three concern. Additionally, of those Survey Respondents who selected Housing as a top three concern, roughly half indicated that "rent is too high" (50.9%).

Though homeowners in Livingston County are "cost burdened" at a much lower rate than renters (i.e., 22.4% of homeowners vs. 52.9% of renters), many homeowners also perceive housing costs to be a barrier to their' ability to attain and maintain economic security. That is, data compiled through the

Community Initiative Council's Community Needs Survey has more Livingston County residents reporting high mortgage payments as an issue than the local statistics bear out. Specifically, of the Survey Respondents who selected Housing as a top three concern in Livingston County, nearly 30% (28.7%) indicated that their "mortgage payment is too high." This number is nearly six percentage points higher than the Census Bureau's finding that 22.4% of homeowners in Livingston County are "cost burdened."

Factors Impacting Ability to Work: Often people's ability to engage in the workforce at a level necessary to meet their families' needs is impacted by factors outside of the economy. Access to supportive services such as transportation and childcare are critical to a successful work experience. Similarly, physical and mental wellness are necessary for workplace productivity.

As described above, many of the low-income families in Livingston County work in low wage jobs. These jobs tend to require working evenings and weekends, which leads to a significant childcare burden on families with young children. Data compiled through the Community Initiatives Council's Community Needs Survey suggest that childcare is among the top barriers to successful employment for Livingston County residents. Specifically, over a quarter (26.0%) of Survey Respondents who selected Employment as a top three concern, indicated that they "don't have affordable childcare/pre-school programming" that supports their employment.

In addition, low-income workers, particularly those in rural areas, like much of Livingston County, often have significant commutes to their jobs (i.e., over half of workers commute out of the County for work), resulting in high transportation costs. Data compiled through the Community Initiatives Council's Community Needs Survey confirm that transportation is a barrier to successful employment. Specifically, approximately one in five of the Survey Respondents who indicated that Employment was a top three concern, cited personal (19.5%) and public transportation (23.7%) to work as an issue.

With low wages and relatively high housing, childcare, and transportation costs, families have difficulty affording other basic necessities, including healthy foods. While none of the communities in Livingston County has been designated a Limited Supermarket Access Area by the Reinvestment Fund, meaning residents should have access to a variety of foods, data compiled through the Community Initiatives Council's Community Needs Survey suggests that limited finances impact families' abilities to purchase healthy foods. Of the Survey Respondents selecting "not enough food" as a top three concern facing residents of Livingston County, "not enough money to purchase food" was listed as the top issue related to food access.

Over time, limited access to healthy foods can lead to negative health outcomes. While adults in Livingston County suffer from chronic illnesses like diabetes and hypertension at a rate similar to their peers in New York State, a higher percentage of adults in Livingston County are overweight or obese than their counterparts across the state (71.4% in Livingston County vs. 63.6% in New York State). Given the cycle of poverty and obesity and the broad impacts of hunger on health and economic security⁸⁰,

⁸⁰ The Borgen Project. Ending the Cycle of Poverty and Obesity. Accessed April 2023 at: <https://borgenproject.org/the-cycle-of-poverty-and-obesity/#:~:text=The%20cycle%20of%20poverty%20and%20obesity%20together%20is%20a%20dangerous,saddled%20with%20expensive%20medical%20bills.>

addressing food access in Livingston County is critical to improving the quality of life for residents, particularly those living near or in poverty.

IV. Community Strengths

A. Community Needs Survey Key Findings – Community Strengths

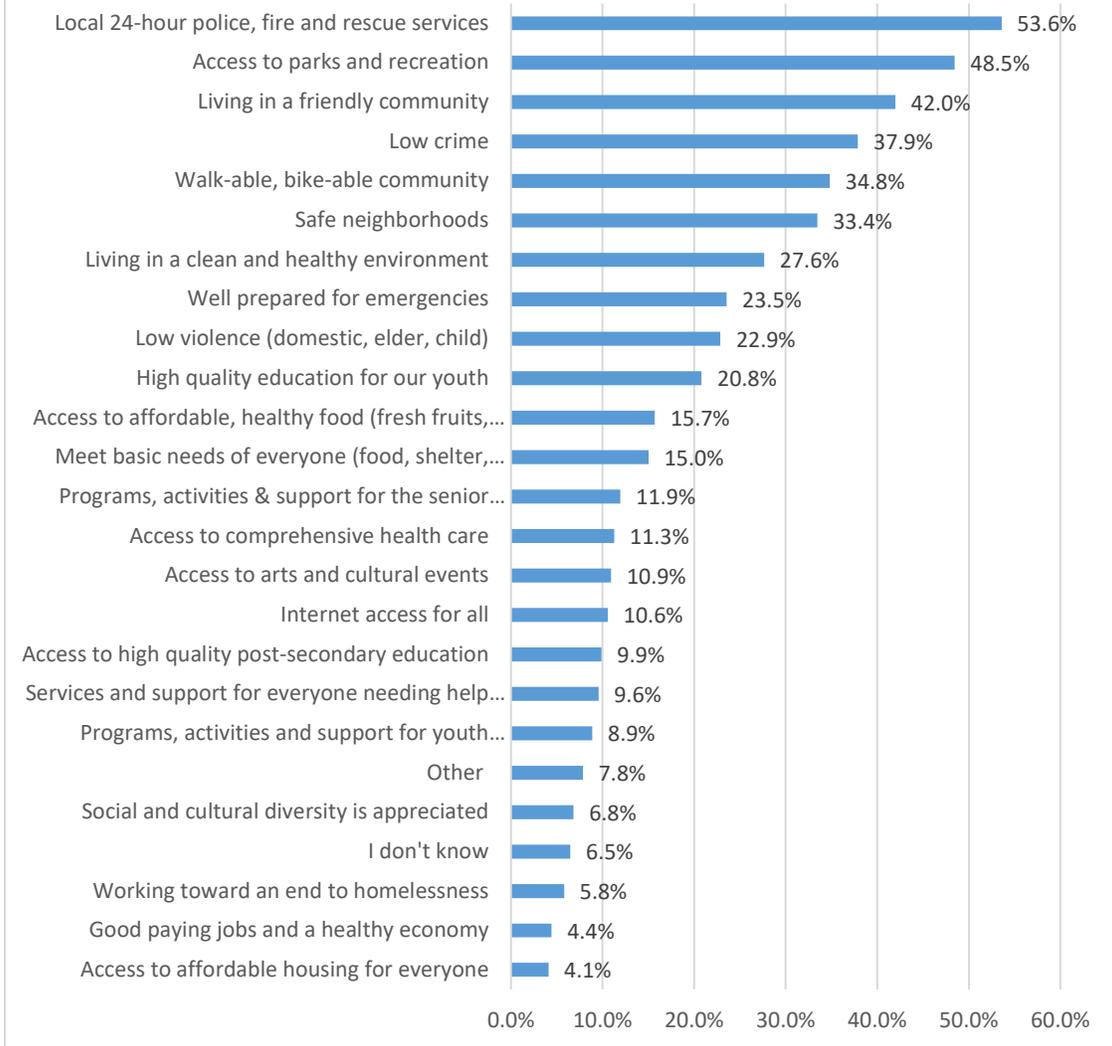
As the final component of the Community Needs Survey, Respondents were asked to consider Livingston County’s strengths. As a strategic planning tool, the Community Needs Survey attempted to capture not just the conditions that are problematic in Livingston County, but also the assets upon which the Community Initiatives Council, local government officials, and community-based organizations can build to address identified needs.

The graph below shows that nearly half of Survey Respondents who completed this section of the survey indicated that the following were relative strengths in Livingston County:

- local emergency services (53.6%)
- access to parks and recreation (48.5%)
- living in a friendly community (42.0%)
- low crime (37.9%)
- walk-able, bike-able community (34.8%)
- safe neighborhoods (33.4%)

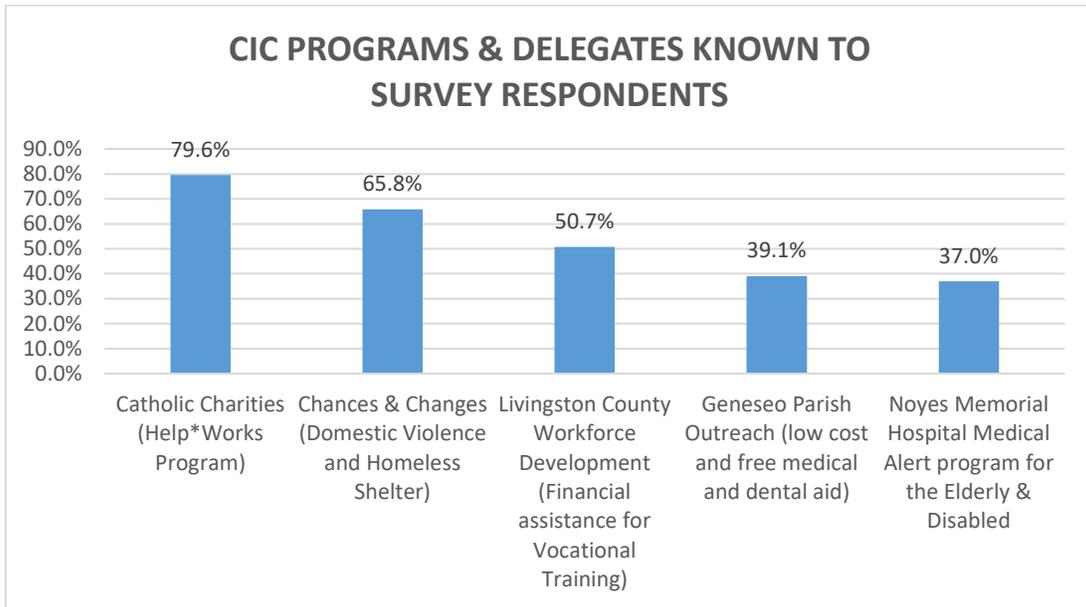
Conversely, and not surprising given the list of highest-ranking needs reported above, access to affordable housing (4.1%), good paying jobs (4.4%), and working to end homelessness (5.8%) fall at the bottom of the list.

SURVEY RESPONDENTS PERCEPTIONS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY'S STRENGTHS



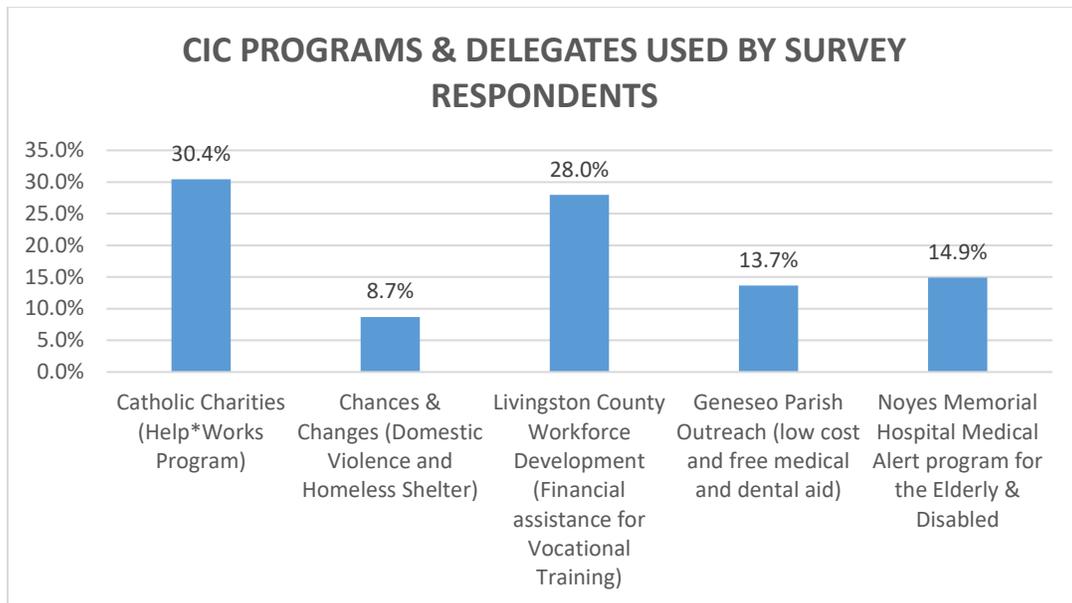
Source: Livingston County Community Initiatives Council Community Needs Survey, 2023

Awareness and Utilization of CIC Programs & Delegate Agencies: In addition to the list above, the programs and delegate agencies currently receiving funding from the Community Initiatives Council are important assets to the community as they support low-income individuals and families in their efforts to move toward economic stability. Currently funded programs and delegate agencies include: Catholic Charities of Steuben / Livingston's Help* Works Program, Chances & Changes Domestic Violence and Homeless Shelter, Geneseo Parish Outreach, Noyes Memorial Hospital's Medical Alert program, and Livingston County Office of Workforce Development's Financial Assistance for Vocational Training program. Of the Survey Respondents who completed this section of the Community Needs Survey, nearly 92% had heard of at least one of these programs/agencies, with the most well-known being Catholic Charities.



Source: Livingston County Community Initiatives Council Community Needs Survey, 2023.

In addition to measuring awareness of these CIC-funded programs and agencies, the Community Needs Survey also measured utilization. Forty-three percent of all Survey Respondents who completed this section of the Community Needs Survey indicated having used one or more of the CIC-funded programs and/or delegate agencies.



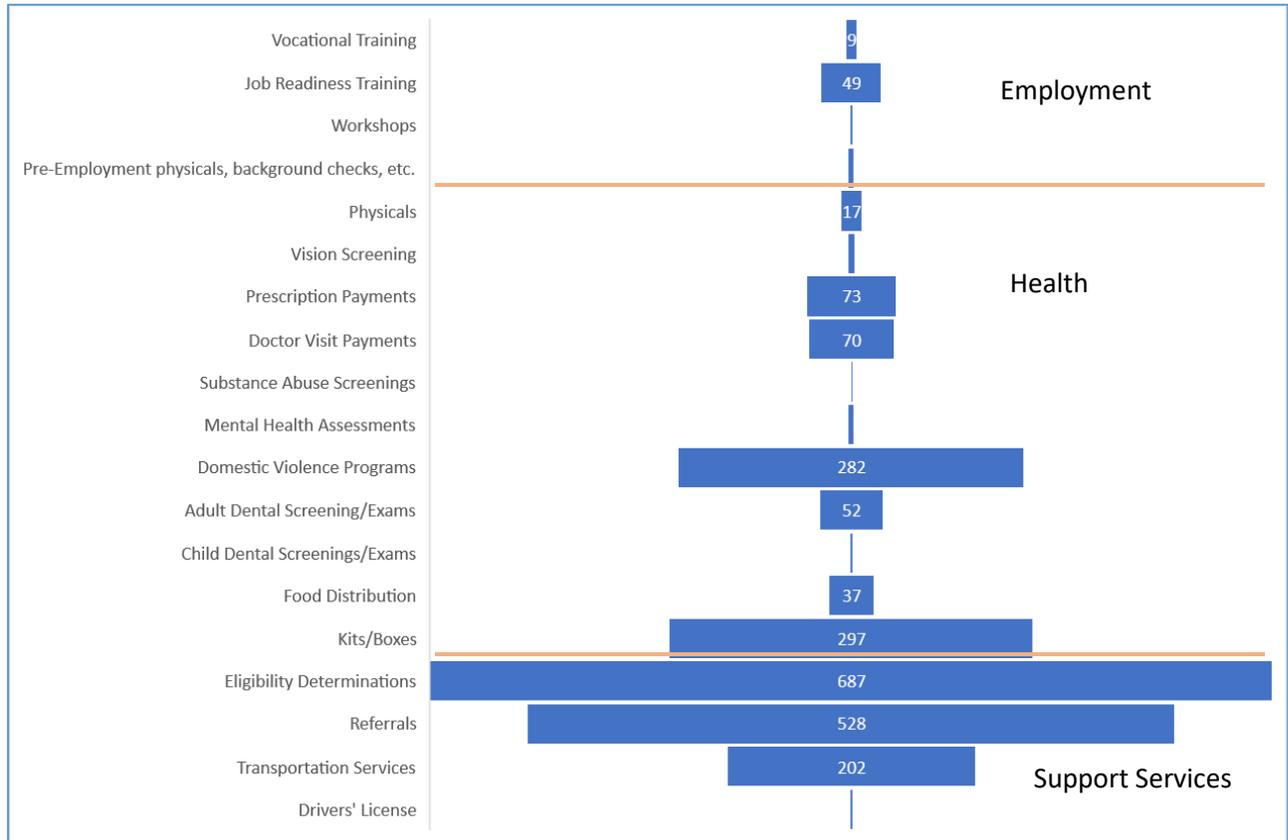
Source: Livingston County Community Initiatives Council Community Needs Survey, 2023.

The most widely known, Catholic Charities, was also the most widely used, with 30.4% of utilizers reporting participation in Catholic Charities’ Help*Works Program. Livingston County Office of Workforce Development’s Financial Assistance for Vocational Training was the next most commonly used with 28.0% of utilizers reporting participation.

B. Program Utilization Data

As utilization of a program or agency does not necessarily lead to positive outcomes, it is important to look at client-level data to see whether these services are addressing identified community needs and helping the Community Initiatives Council to achieve its overarching mission of moving people toward economic stability.

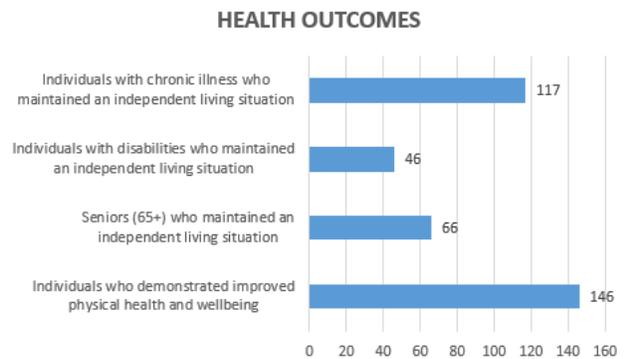
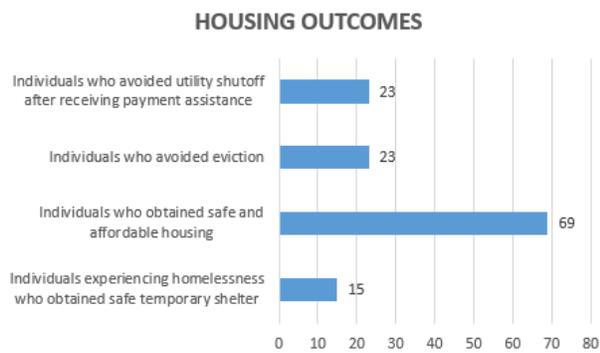
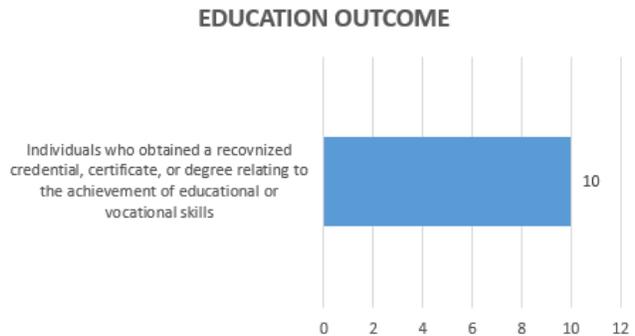
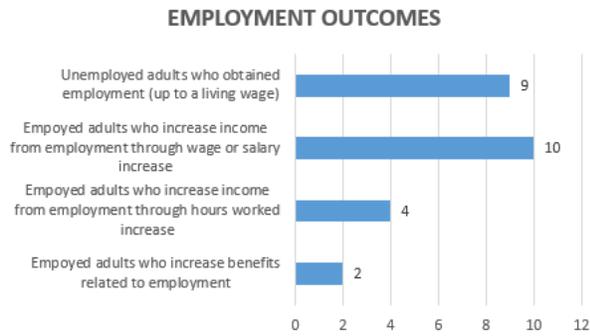
In Fiscal Year 2022, CIC-funded programs and organizations provided the following array of services to 1,974 unduplicated residents of Livingston County:



Source: Livingston County Office of Workforce Development and the Community Initiatives Council. FY 22 Annual Report Module 4.

Services fell into three primary categories: Employment, Health, and Support Services, with the preponderance of services falling into the last category: Support Services.

Clients of the CIC-funded programs and organizations achieved the following outcomes (i.e., National Performance Indicators) in the domains of Employment, Education, Housing, and Health:

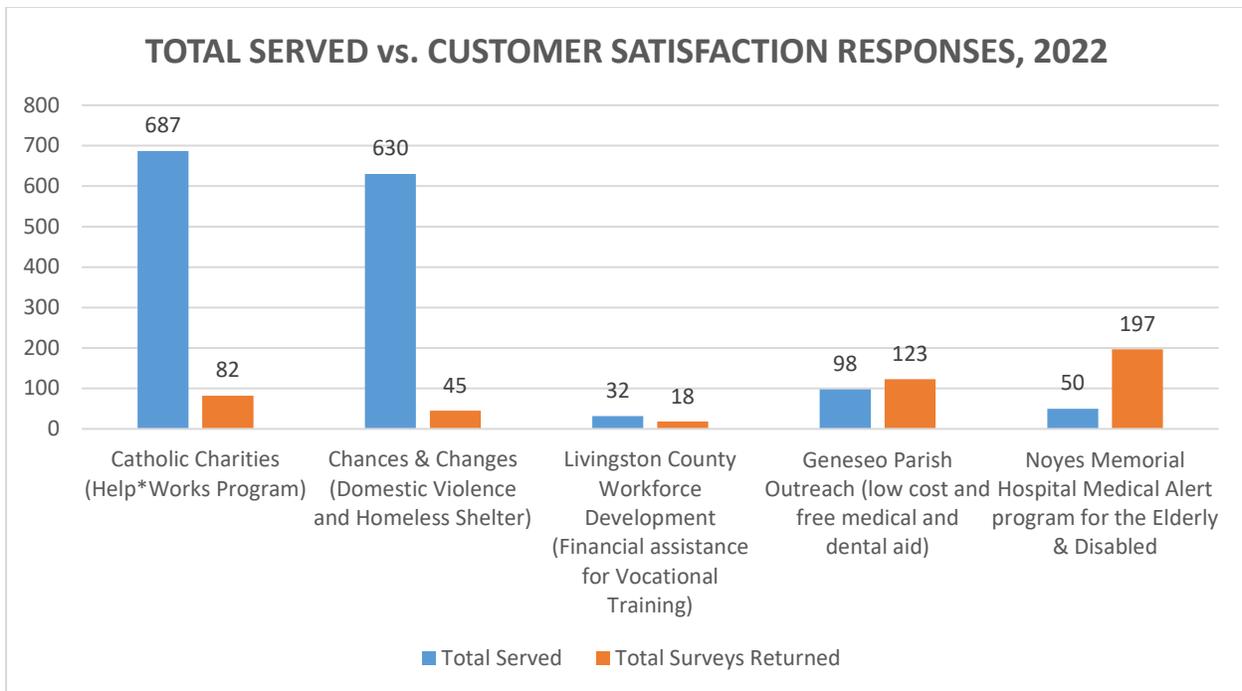


Source: Livingston County Office of Workforce Development and the Community Initiatives Council. FY 22 Annual Report Module 4.

The focus areas of the services provided and the outcomes achieved demonstrate strong alignment with the priority areas identified in CIC’s 2019 to 2022 Community Needs Assessment and current Strategic Plan: lack of good work paying a livable wage, high housing costs, lack of education, unhealthy neighborhoods, and poor health.

C. Customer Satisfaction Data

Another type of client data is Customer Satisfaction data. This data is captured by each CIC-funded program/agency according to its own processes and timelines. Presented here is a brief overview of the Customer Satisfaction data provided to CIC by its delegates in early 2023. It includes feedback from clients served in Fiscal Year 2022. NOTE: for some organizations, there are more Customer Satisfaction Survey responses than CSBG-eligible individuals served in a program. This discrepancy can be due to repeat survey responses by a single participant and/or the fact that a program might serve individuals who fall outside of CSBG-eligibility guidelines. As the Customer Satisfaction Surveys are anonymous, there is no way to narrow the respondent pool to only those who are CSBG-eligible.



Source: Catholic Charities of Steuben / Livingston Counties, Chances & Changes, Geneseo Parish Outreach, Noyes Memorial Hospital, & Livingston County Office of Workforce Development. Customer Satisfaction Data Tool, 2022.

Given that each agency/program has its own processes and tools for collecting Customer Satisfaction data, it is difficult to make a direct comparison of results or to aggregate information. The table above shows that some entities are more diligent about collecting customer feedback (i.e., 18/32 or 56% of CSBG-eligible customers of Livingston County Office of Workforce Development’s Financial Assistance for Vocational Training provided feedback whereas 45/630 or roughly 7% of Chances & Changes Domestic Violence and Homeless Shelter customers provided feedback). Both Geneseo Parish Outreach and Noyes Memorial Hospital shared data for their entire customer population, not just those receiving services funded through CIC’s Community Services Block Grant.

Acknowledging these limitations in the data, the Customer Satisfaction data collected and reported by CIC-funded delegate agencies and programs showed overall positive attitudes toward services received as well as positive results for participants. Specifically:

- Catholic Charities Help*Works – Of those participants surveyed, over 80% “Strongly” to “Very Strongly” agreed that they were satisfied with the Financial and Emergency Services provided.
- Chances & Changes Domestic Violence and Homeless Shelter – Of those participants surveyed, 98% reported knowing more ways to plan for safety, 93% reported knowing more about community resources, and 95% reported knowing more about their rights and options.
- Geneseo Parish Outreach – Of those participants surveyed, 100% “Strongly” to “Very Strongly” agreed that they were satisfied with care received.
- Noyes Memorial Hospital’s Medical Alert Program – Of those participants surveyed, 99% rated their overall satisfaction as “Good” to “Excellent.” In addition, 98% rated the service’s helpfulness and prompt response as “Good” to “Excellent.”

- Livingston County Office of Workforce Development’s Financial Assistance for Vocational Training – Of those participants surveyed, 100% reported that the program did a “Good” to “Excellent” job of helping them find ways to improve their lives.

Given this overwhelmingly positive client feedback, it is important for CIC and the community at large to consider these agencies and programs among the community’s assets.

D. Summary/Conclusion

To identify community strengths on which to build to address barriers to economic stability, Survey Respondents were asked to select community assets from a list. Emergency services and the character of the community as “safe” and “friendly” with easy “access to parks and recreation” for “walking and biking” topped the list with more than a third of Survey Respondents indicating each as a strength of Livingston County.

Survey Respondents were also asked about their familiarity and experiences with programs and delegate agencies currently funded by the Community Initiatives Council. Currently funded programs and delegate agencies include: Catholic Charities of Steuben / Livingston County’s Help* Works Program, Chances & Changes Domestic Violence and Homeless Shelter, Geneseo Parish Outreach, Noyes Memorial Hospital’s Medical Alert program, and Livingston County Office of Workforce Development’s Financial Assistance for Vocational Training program. Of the Survey Respondents who completed this section of the Community Needs Survey, nearly 92% had heard of at least one of these programs/agencies, with the most well-known being Catholic Charities. Over forty percent (43%) of Survey Respondents indicated having used one or more of these programs and/or delegate agencies.

To get a sense of the efficacy of these programs and delegate agencies in helping Livingston County residents move toward economic stability, Program Utilization and Client Satisfaction Data was reviewed in conjunction with the Community Initiatives Council’s Community Needs Survey. This data suggests that the focus areas of the services provided and the outcomes achieved in Fiscal Year 2022 demonstrate strong alignment with the priority areas identified in CIC’s 2019 to 2022 Community Needs Assessment and current Strategic Plan: lack of good work paying a livable wage, high housing costs, lack of education, unhealthy neighborhoods, and poor health. They also suggest positive attitudes toward services received at CIC-funded programs and delegate agencies. And, as a result, CIC-supported programs should also be considered strengths and assets to Livingston County in its fight against poverty.

Appendix A – Key Poverty Rates for Livingston County Communities

Geography	Total Population	% Total Population in Poverty	Gender		Age				
			% Males in Poverty	% Females in Poverty	% 0-5years in Poverty	% Under 18years in Poverty	% 18-34years in Poverty	% 35-64years in Poverty	% 65+years in Poverty
United States	329725481	12.6%	0.4%	13.8%	18.5%	17.0%	14.9%	10.0%	9.6%
New York	20114745	13.5%	1.2%	14.6%	19.1%	18.4%	14.5%	11.0%	11.7%
Livingston County	62253	11.5%	9.7%	13.3%	13.3%	14.2%	22.6%	7.7%	5.1%
Avon	6878	5.9%	4.6%	7.2%	6.5%	4.6%	9.9%	4.7%	6.5%
Caledonia	4117	7.1%	5.3%	8.9%	14.5%	10.1%	5.4%	7.2%	6.7%
Conesus	1701	6.2%	3.3%	9.3%	43.5%	10.3%	8.1%	5.5%	4.7%
Geneseo	10712	30.5%	25.8%	34.1%	18.7%	23.7%	56.3%	17.5%	4.4%
Groveland	3249	10.2%	9.6%	10.9%	13.0%	30.6%	3.2%	5.8%	5.5%
Leicester	2118	7.6%	6.1%	9.2%	11.1%	14.3%	8.9%	4.6%	4.4%
Lima	4130	6.7%	4.7%	8.8%	1.5%	7.6%	8.6%	5.8%	5.9%
Livonia	7435	3.8%	4.2%	3.3%	0.0%	2.6%	10.2%	2.2%	2.5%
Mount Morris	4417	14.2%	12.8%	15.6%	10.0%	12.1%	25.0%	11.5%	11.1%
North Dansville	5277	9.5%	10.2%	8.8%	18.8%	21.0%	7.9%	9.2%	1.7%
Nunda	2709	19.4%	16.0%	22.6%	37.0%	29.0%	28.7%	13.6%	10.6%
Ossian	681	9.6%	8.8%	10.6%	11.8%	23.9%	7.4%	7.8%	2.8%
Portage	907	13.0%	8.5%	18.1%	36.6%	20.4%	16.0%	11.9%	2.4%
Sparta	1402	10.5%	9.2%	12.0%	33.8%	22.3%	8.2%	6.8%	11.6%
Springwater	2273	16.5%	18.3%	14.7%	35.2%	34.0%	24.1%	11.2%	11.2%
West Sparta	1076	11.2%	10.8%	12.1%	0.0%	6.8%	20.3%	13.0%	13.0%
York	3171	5.4%	4.1%	6.8%	6.1%	6.9%	12.6%	4.1%	0.8%

✓ Not sha

Geography	Race & Ethnicity							
	% White, Non-Hispanic in Poverty	% Black/African American in Poverty	% American Indian/Alaskan Native in Poverty	% Asian in Poverty	% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander in Poverty	% Some Other Race in Poverty	% Multi-racial in Poverty	% Hispanic/Latino (of any race) in Poverty
United States	9.2%	21.7%	23.4%	10.3%	16.7%	19.1%	14.9%	17.7%
New York	9.2%	20.2%	23.2%	14.1%	27.2%	22.4%	16.2%	20.2%
Livingston County	10.9%	23.2%	32.0%	9.3%	-	37.5%	6.6%	31.1%
Avon	4.8%	0.0%	86.7%	0.0%	-	50.0%	0.0%	68.5%
Caledonia	7.8%	4.1%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	2.4%	4.0%
Conesus	5.9%	0.0%	-	-	-	0.0%	37.5%	-
Geneseo	32.0%	37.0%	-	23.9%	-	0.0%	2.3%	14.0%
Groveland	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	5.1%	22.6%
Leicester	6.9%	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	-	23.5%	18.8%
Lima	5.6%	100.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	25.3%	37.7%
Livonia	2.8%	95.2%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	6.6%	6.1%
Mount Morris	12.8%	3.5%	0.0%	-	-	40.5%	12.2%	25.7%
North Dansville	6.0%	13.3%	-	-	-	94.5%	10.0%	77.5%
Nunda	19.7%	44.0%	-	-	-	-	0.0%	33.3%
Ossian	9.5%	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	100.0%
Portage	9.2%	0.0%	100.0%	-	-	-	0.0%	92.1%
Sparta	10.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	0.0%
Springwater	17.3%	26.3%	-	100.0%	-	8.3%	1.9%	27.3%
West Sparta	10.2%	100.0%	-	100.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%
York	5.6%	50.0%	-	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, 5YR, Tables B01003, S1701, B17001, and B09001

Appendix B – Percent Overall Survey Respondents Indicating Each Issue by Area of Concern

Overall Survey Sample	
Issue	% Respondents Indicating Issue
Housing	
Utility costs are too high	47.8%
Rent is too high	34.9%
House is not energy efficient	21.5%
House needs too many repairs	20.0%
Mortgage payment is too high	19.7%
Affordable housing is too far from employment opportunities	15.2%
Offender status makes it hard to find housing	2.1%
Employment	
Jobs don't pay enough	41%
Jobs don't come with benefits (e.g., health insurance, sick time, etc.)	24%
Don't have affordable child care/pre-school programming to allow me to work	17%
Don't have access to public transportation to get to work	15%
Jobs don't give enough hours	14%
Don't have personal transportation to get to work	13%
Don't have the technical skills to find work	11%
Don't have the soft skills to keep a job (e.g., good communication skills, appropriate clothing, etc.)	5%
Offender status makes it hard to get a job	2%
Transportation	
Don't have personal transportation to get to work or appointments	16%
Don't have a friend or family member to help me get places	13%
Car repairs are too expensive	12%
The bus stop is too far to get to	12%
Don't have a driver's license	9%
Car insurance is not affordable	9%
Car won't pass inspection and can't afford the repairs	8%
Road and sidewalks are not well maintained	5%
Can't afford to pay my traffic tickets and fines	2%
Food	
Not enough money to purchase food	30%
Too hard to get to the store	8%
The kinds of food we like are not available	8%
Not enough time to shop for or cook food	3%
Don't have working appliances for food storage or preparation	2%
Child Care	
Lack of affordable childcare for infants and toddlers (0- 2yrs)	22%
Lack of affordable before/after school care	18%
Childcare facilities are not available for non-traditional hours (i.e. evenings, overnight)	17%
Lack of affordable preschool programs (3-5yrs)	15%
Long wait lists for child care programs	10%
Childcare is not accessible or close to my community	10%
Worried about sending kid(s) to daycare because of COVID-19 and other illnesses	3%
On-site support for remote learning for school age child(ren) is unavailable	3%
Lack of cultural awareness in child care programs	2%
Difficulty communicating with staff because of language barriers	2%

Appendix B – Percent Overall Survey Respondents Indicating Each Issue by Area of Concern

Health	
Health insurance is too expensive	10%
There aren't enough primary care providers	6%
Wait times for appointments with primary care providers are too long	6%
There aren't enough mental health and substance abuse providers	6%
There aren't enough dentists	5%
Copays are too expensive for visits with primary care providers	4%
Copays are too expensive for visits with dentists	4%
The enrollment process for health insurance is too complicated	4%
Wait times for appointments with mental health and substance abuse providers are too long	3%
Wait times for appointments with dentists are too long	3%
Copays are too expensive for visits with mental health and substance abuse providers	3%
I don't have transportation to health care appointments	2%
There aren't enough mental health and substance abuse providers who speak my language/understand my culture	1%
There aren't enough primary care providers who speak my language/understand my culture	0%
There aren't enough dentists who speak my language/understand my culture	0%
Education	
Education after High School is too expensive	7%
Available training programs are not relevant to the local job market	5%
Limited number of affordable trade/technical training opportunities	4%
Don't have High School diploma or equivalent	2%
Don't speak English fluently enough to participate in educational opportunities	0%
Neighborhoods	
Bullying	5%
Abandoned buildings/properties	4%
High crime rates	4%
No available recreational spaces (e.g., parks, bike paths, etc.)	4%
Family violence	3%

Source: Livingston County Community Initiatives Council Community Needs Survey, 2023

CIC Community Survey 2023

Instructions

The Livingston County Community Initiatives Council (CIC) is conducting a survey to help us better understand the needs and strengths of our community. We are interested in your thoughts on poverty and people in need living in Livingston County. The survey takes only a few minutes to complete, and your responses are 100% anonymous. The findings from this survey will become part of the 2023 Livingston County Community Needs Assessment and will help us to direct funding to programs.

This survey will be available until February 15, 2023.

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 1: Needs

* 1. Based on your experiences and/or those of your friends and family, tell us what you believe is the biggest problem facing families in Livingston County.

- Not enough food
- Housing costs are too high
- Lack of good work paying a liveable wage
- Lack of education
- Unsafe neighborhoods
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Poor health

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

2. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to food. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough money to purchase food | <input type="checkbox"/> Too hard to get to the store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough time to shop for or cook food | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have working appliances for food storage or preparation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The kinds of food we like are not available | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

3. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to housing. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rent is too high | <input type="checkbox"/> House needs too many repairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mortgage payment is too high | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing is too far from employment opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility costs are too high | <input type="checkbox"/> Offender status makes it hard to find housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House is not energy efficient | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

4. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to employment. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have the technical skills to find work | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have affordable child care/pre-school programming to allow me to work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have the soft skills to keep a job (e.g., good communication skills, appropriate clothing, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs don't pay enough |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offender status makes it hard to get a job | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs don't give enough hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have personal transportation to get to work | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs don't come with benefits (e.g., health insurance, sick time, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have access to public transportation to get to work | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

5. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to education. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have High School diploma or equivalent | <input type="checkbox"/> Available training programs are not relevant to the local job market |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't speak English fluently enough to participate in educational opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited number of affordable trade/technical training opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education after High School is too expensive | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

6. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to neighborhoods. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High crime rates | <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned buildings/properties |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road and sidewalks are not well maintained | <input type="checkbox"/> Family violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No available recreational spaces (e.g., parks, bike paths, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

7. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to childcare. (select all that apply)

- Lack of affordable childcare for infants and toddlers (0- 2yrs)
- Lack of affordable preschool programs (3-5yrs)
- Lack of affordable before/after school care
- Childcare facilities are not available for non-traditional hours (i.e. evenings, overnight)
- Long wait lists for child care programs
- Childcare is not accessible or close to my community
- On-site support for remote learning for school age child(ren) is unavailable
- Worried about sending kid(s) to daycare because of COVID-19 and other illnesses
- Lack of cultural awareness in child care programs
- Difficulty communicating with staff because of language barriers
- Other (please specify)

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

8. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to transportation. (select all that apply)

- Don't have personal transportation to get to work or appointments
- Don't have a driver's license
- Don't have a friend or family member to help me get places
- The bus stop is too far to get to
- Car insurance is not affordable
- Car repairs are too expensive
- Can't afford to pay my traffic tickets and fines
- Car won't pass inspection and can't afford the repairs
- Other (please specify)

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

9. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to health. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health insurance is too expensive | <input type="checkbox"/> Copays are too expensive for visits with mental health and substance abuse providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The enrollment process for health insurance is too complicated | <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough mental health and substance abuse providers who speak my language/understand my culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough primary care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough dentists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wait times for appointments with primary care providers are too long | <input type="checkbox"/> Wait times for appointments with dentists are too long |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copays are too expensive for visits with primary care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Copays are too expensive for visits with dentists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough primary care providers who speak my language/understand my culture | <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough dentists who speak my language/understand my culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough mental health and substance abuse providers | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't have transportation to health care appointments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wait times for appointments with mental health and substance abuse providers are too long | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 1: Needs

* 10. Based on your experiences and/or those of your friends and family, tell us what you believe is the SECOND biggest problem facing families in Livingston County.

- Not enough food
- Housing costs are too high
- Lack of good work paying a liveable wage
- Lack of education
- Unsafe neighborhoods
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Poor health

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

11. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to food. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough money to purchase food | <input type="checkbox"/> Too hard to get to the store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough time to shop for or cook food | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have working appliances for food storage or preparation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The kinds of food we like are not available | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

12. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to housing. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rent is too high | <input type="checkbox"/> House needs too many repairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mortgage payment is too high | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing is too far from employment opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility costs are too high | <input type="checkbox"/> Offender status makes it hard to find housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House is not energy efficient | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

13. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to employment. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have the technical skills to find work | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have affordable child care/pre-school programming to allow me to work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have the soft skills to keep a job (e.g., good communication skills, appropriate clothing, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs don't pay enough |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offender status makes it hard to get a job | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs don't give enough hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have personal transportation to get to work | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs don't come with benefits (e.g., health insurance, sick time, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have access to public transportation to get to work | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

14. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to education. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have high school diploma or equivalent | <input type="checkbox"/> Available training programs are not relevant to the local job market |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't speak English fluently enough to participate in educational opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited number of affordable trade/technical training opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education after High School is too expensive | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

15. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to neighborhoods. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High crime rates | <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned buildings/properties |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road and sidewalks are not well maintained | <input type="checkbox"/> Family violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No available recreational spaces (e.g., parks, bike paths, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

16. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to childcare. (select all that apply)

- Lack of affordable childcare for infants and toddlers (0- 2yrs)
- Lack of affordable preschool programs (3-5yrs)
- Lack of affordable before/afterschool care
- Childcare facilities are not available for non-traditional hours (i.e. evenings, overnight)
- Childcare is not accessible or close to my community
- Long wait lists for child care programs
- On-site support for remote learning for school age child(ren) is unavailable
- Worried about sending kid(s) to daycare because of COVID-19 and other illnesses
- Lack of cultural awareness in child care programs
- Difficulty communicating with staff because of language barriers
- Other (please specify)

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

17. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to transportation. (select all that apply)

- Don't have personal transportation to get to work or appointments
- Don't have a driver's license
- Don't have a friend or family member to help me get places
- The bus stop is too far to get to
- Car insurance is not affordable
- Car repairs are too expensive
- Can't afford to pay my traffic tickets and fines
- Car won't pass inspection and can't afford the repairs
- Other (please specify)

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

18. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to health. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health insurance is too expensive | <input type="checkbox"/> Copays are too expensive for visits with mental health and substance abuse providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The enrollment process for health insurance is too complicated | <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough mental health and substance abuse providers who speak my language/understand my culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough primary care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough dentists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wait times for appointments with primary care providers are too long | <input type="checkbox"/> Wait times for appointments with dentists are too long |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copays are too expensive for visits with primary care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Copays are too expensive for visits with dentists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough primary care providers who speak my language/understand my culture | <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough dentists who speak my language/understand my culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough mental health and substance abuse providers | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't have transportation to health care appointments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wait times for appointments with mental health and substance abuse providers are too long | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 1: Needs

* 19. Based on your experiences and/or those of your friends and family, tell us what you believe is the THIRD biggest problem facing families in Livingston County.

- Not enough food
- Housing costs are too high
- Lack of good work paying a liveable wage
- Lack of education
- Unhealthy neighborhoods
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Poor health

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

20. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to food. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough money to purchase food | <input type="checkbox"/> Too hard to get to the store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough time to shop for or cook food | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have working appliances for food storage or preparation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The kinds of food we like are not available | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

21. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to housing. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rent is too high | <input type="checkbox"/> House needs too many repairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mortgage payment is too high | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing is too far from employment opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility costs are too high | <input type="checkbox"/> Offender status makes it hard to find housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House is not energy efficient | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

22. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to employment. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have the technical skills to find work | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have affordable child care/pre-school programming to allow me to work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have the soft skills to keep a job (e.g., good communication skills, appropriate clothing, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs don't pay enough |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offender status makes it hard to get a job | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs don't give enough hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have personal transportation to get to work | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs don't come with benefits (e.g., health insurance, sick time, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have access to public transportation to get to work | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

23. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to education. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have a High School diploma or equivalent | <input type="checkbox"/> Available training programs are not relevant to the local job market |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't speak English fluently enough to participate in educational opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited number of affordable trade/technical training opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education after High School is too expensive | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

24. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to neighborhoods. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High crime rates | <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned buildings/properties |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road and sidewalks are not well maintained | <input type="checkbox"/> Family violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No available recreational spaces (e.g., parks, bike paths, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

25. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to childcare. (select all that apply)

- Lack of affordable childcare for infants and toddlers (0- 2yrs)
- Lack of affordable preschool programs (3-5yrs)
- Lack of affordable before/after school care
- Childcare facilities are not available for non-traditional hours (i.e. evenings, overnight)
- Childcare is not accessible or close to my community
- Long wait lists for child care programs
- On-site support for remote learning for school age child(ren) is unavailable
- Worried about sending kid(s) to daycare because of COVID-19 and other illnesses
- Lack of cultural awareness in child care programs
- Difficulty communicating with staff because of language barriers
- Other (please specify)

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

26. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to transportation. (select all that apply)

- Don't have personal transportation to get to work or appointments
- Don't have a driver's license
- Don't have a friend or family member to help me get places
- The bus stop is too far to get to
- Car insurance is not affordable
- Car repairs are too expensive
- Can't afford to pay my traffic tickets and fines
- Car won't pass inspection and can't afford the repairs
- Other (please specify)

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 2: Specific Needs

27. Place a check mark in the box next to the specific problems you or your friends and family have had related to health. (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health insurance is too expensive | <input type="checkbox"/> Copays are too expensive for visits with mental health and substance abuse providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The enrollment process for health insurance is too complicated | <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough mental health and substance abuse providers who speak my language/understand my culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough primary care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough dentists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wait times for appointments with primary care providers are too long | <input type="checkbox"/> Wait times for appointments with dentists are too long |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copays are too expensive for visits with primary care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Copays are too expensive for visits with dentists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough primary care providers who speak my language/understand my culture | <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough dentists who speak my language/understand my culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There aren't enough mental health and substance abuse providers | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't have transportation to health care appointments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wait times for appointments with mental health and substance abuse providers are too long | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 3: Other Needs

28. Do you or your family have significant needs which are not listed above and which are not being addressed in the community?

CIC Community Survey 2023

Section 5: Community Strengths & Assets

In this section, we want you to tell us what our community does well and where you have found support in the community.

29. What are the greatest strengths of our community? (select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walk-able, bike-able community | <input type="checkbox"/> Working toward an end to homelessness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to affordable housing for everyone | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to affordable, healthy food (fresh fruits, vegetables) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to health care for everyone, including mental health, substance abuse, and dental | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet access for all |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to arts and cultural events | <input type="checkbox"/> Good paying jobs and a healthy economy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local 24-hour police, fire and rescue services | <input type="checkbox"/> Living in a friendly community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meet basic needs of everyone (food, shelter, clothing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Low crime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well prepared for emergencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Low violence (domestic, elder, child) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social and cultural diversity is appreciated by community members | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs, activities and support for youth and teens during non-school hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to parks and recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs, activities & support for the senior community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High quality education for our youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe neighborhoods |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to high quality post-secondary education for young adults and adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Services and support for everyone needing help during times of stress and crisis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living in a clean and healthy environment | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

30. Several community groups and institutions in Livingston County currently offer programs to help at-risk populations. Please look through the list below and tell us which, if any, of these programs you had heard of before this survey.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Charities of Livingston County (Help*Works Program) | <input type="checkbox"/> Noyes Memorial Hospital Medical Alert program for the Elderly & Disabled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chances & Changes (Domestic Violence and Homeless Shelter) | <input type="checkbox"/> Livingston County Workforce Development (Financial assistance for Vocational Training) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geneseo Parish Outreach (low cost and free medical and dental aid) | <input type="checkbox"/> I have not heard of any of these programs |

31. Which, if any, or these programs have you or a member of your household used

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Charities of Livingston County (Help*Works Program) | <input type="checkbox"/> Noyes Memorial Hospital Medical Alert program for the Elderly & Disabled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chances & Changes (Domestic Violence and Homeless Shelter) | <input type="checkbox"/> Livingston County Workforce Development (Financial assistance for Vocational Training) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geneseo Parish Outreach (low cost and free medical and dental aid) | |

The following information about you will help us compare the opinions and experiences of different groups of community members.

32. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Other (please specify)

33. What is your race?

- White
- Black/African American
- American Indian or Native Alaskan
- Other (please specify)
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Multi-Racial

34. What is your ethnicity?

- Hispanic
- Not Hispanic

35. What is your age?

36. In what village or town do you live?

37. How many people live in your household?

38. What is your annual household income before taxes?

- \$0 - \$9,999
- \$10,000 - \$24,999
- \$25,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000+