

Poverty Here?

Yes.

United Way of Washtenaw County is developing strategies to positively impact the financial stability of our citizens, as part of our commitment to address key community issues.

The goal is to help move people toward greater economic self-sufficiency and away from the safety-net services that are designed for use during crisis situations. Building the financial stability of individuals and families is critical to fueling our county's economic growth and progress to create a thriving community for everyone.

How We're Doing It:

- **Mobile Financial Resource Team** Providing free one-on-one financial coaching and workshops to individuals that includes credit repair, banking benefits, predatory lending and other issues.
- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program** Free tax assistance provided by trained volunteers and professionals to low-income individuals and families.
- **Financial Stability Funding Stream** Establishing a dedicated grant opportunity process to support existing and emerging agency programs focused on financial education and self-sufficiency initiatives.
- **Financial Stability Advocacy and Public Policy Platform** Increasing the financial stability of low-income individuals and families through increased advocacy efforts, public awareness campaign and community conversations.

What Does the Data Say?

A study commissioned by United Way illustrated how many families are struggling as ALICE—Asset Limited, Income Constrained and Employed. A total of 39% of Washtenaw County residents find it difficult to afford basic needs; 15% living at or below the poverty level along with 24% of all employed residents struggling with basic needs. Most of these individuals reside in Ypsilanti (56%), many are people of color, and nearly a quarter (23%) are seniors.

Want more information?

Visit our **Data Portal** to find a variety of resources illustrating the depth and breadth of this issue in Washtenaw County.

United Way of Washtenaw County • 2305 Platt Road • Ann Arbor MI 48104 • 734.971.8200

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