

Recovery-Resistant Economy Continues to Challenge DeKalb County Residents

“A greater proportion of Americans were poor in 2013 than in 2009, the year the Great Recession officially ended. All in all, the data are clear that poverty remains stubbornly and unacceptably high, and too many Americans are struggling to find a job, pay their rent, and feed their families.”

(Coalition on Human Needs September 19, 2014 report: *New Census Data Confirms Millions Are Still Being Left Behind*)



According to the latest poverty data from the American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau (2013), 15.8% of Americans live in poverty. In Indiana, the percentage is slightly higher—15.9%. Although unemployment rates have dropped, many are working in jobs that pay far less than the ones they held before the recession. This is due, in large part, to the fact that **60% of the job losses during the recession were in middle-wage occupations, while 58% of the job growth in the post-recession period was in lower-wage jobs**, according to the National Employment Labor Project. People who once held these lower-wage jobs have been displaced, adding to the numbers already living in poverty.

U.S. Poverty:
15.8%—48,000,000 Americans

Indiana Poverty:
15.9%—1,000,000 Hoosiers

DeKalb County Poverty:
12.8%— 5,400 Residents

Median income has remained nearly stagnant, and in some counties has even declined. Data from the U.S. Census show that **income in the post-recession time period grew by only a fraction of a percent— .4% for 99 percent of Americans**. Purchasing power has been reduced, while prices for everything from food to housing have increased.

U.S. Median Income
2009—\$50,221
2013—\$51,371

Indiana Median Income
2009—\$45,427
2013—\$46,954

DeKalb County Median Income
2009—\$44,702
2012—\$48,116

This is why people in DeKalb County are calling 2-1-1 for help. 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Staff canvass the community to collect information on services that can help people in DeKalb County. Currently, the 2-1-1 database staff maintains detailed information on **78** resources that are **physically located** in the county; an **additional 1,806** resources **serve** county residents.

Connecting
People

To
Resources

2-1-1 Call Center Specialists use this resource database to connect DeKalb County residents to services that can help. Residents also can search the 2-1-1 database **online** at **www.UnitedWayAllenCounty.org** to find resources on their own.

From October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014, **1,244 DeKalb** County residents called 2-1-1 for help with **1,784** needs and received **2,189** referrals to community resources. An additional **297** searches for help were conducted on the online community resource database. Despite existing resources, **10%** of needs were recorded as “unmet” by 2-1-1.

Top 5 Needs

1. Utilities - 22%
2. Housing - 20%
3. Health - 10%
4. Financial - 9%
5. Legal - 6%

Top 5 Unmet Needs

1. Housing - 31%
2. Utilities - 16%
3. Health - 10%
4. Holiday Assistance - 10%
5. Financial - 7%

How YOU Can Help

Now is the time to act. **YOU** can make a difference for DeKalb County residents who need help. Look at the needs above and see how you can use your **time, skills, or dollars** to create a community where **ALL** people have a chance to thrive.

If you need suggestions for where to start, dial **2-1-1** or visit www.UnitedWayAllenCounty.org.