



Greater Twin Cities United Way (GTCUW) Community Fact Sheet 2019

Twin Cities Overview:

The greater Twin Cities region is vibrant and is considered one of the best places to live. But that's not true for everyone in our community. Today we're facing gaps that limit our potential and threaten the well-being of our entire community:

- The cost of living has outpaced wages, and 1 in 4 people in our community cannot afford basic needs.
- 6,700+ people experience homelessness any given night in the Twin Cities.
- By 2024, Minnesota is projected to have 400,000 unfilled jobs due to workforce gaps. The majority of these jobs will require some education beyond high school.

GTCUW Impact Overview:

- The mission of Greater Twin Cities United Way (GTCUW) is to galvanize our community to build pathways toward prosperity and equity for all.
- Last year, GTCUW touched the lives of over 500,000 people in our community.
- In 2018, we connected Minnesotans to 273,020 referrals through our 2-1-1 hotline and website. 2-1-1 connects people in need to resources such as housing, food, and more – available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- In 2018, we coordinated 60,700 volunteers who contributed to our community through service projects, valued at \$15 million.

Housing:

- On any given night, an estimated 6,763 people in the Twin Cities experience homelessness.¹
- Since 2015, homelessness has increased 9% in the Twin Cities metro.¹
- Children and youth age 24 and younger represent nearly half (46%) of people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota.¹
- 40% of young people experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ.²

¹ 2018 Minnesota Homeless Study. Wilder Research. March, 2019. <http://mnhomeless.org/minnesota-homeless-study/homelessness-in-minnesota.php>

² Durso, L.E., & Gates, G.J. (2012). Serving Our Youth: Findings from a National Survey of Service Providers Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth who are Homeless or At Risk of Becoming Homeless. Los Angeles: The Williams Institute with True Colors Fund and The Palette Fund.

- Over half (56%) of people experiencing homelessness said they had difficulty finding housing because there was nothing they could afford. Half (50%) were on a subsidized housing waiting list, but the average time they have been waiting for housing is 12 months.³
- **GTCUW envisions a region where episodes of homelessness are rare, brief, and nonrecurring.**
- In 2018, 10,786 people were connected to housing resources.
- GTCUW is a supporting member of the statewide Homes for All coalition, working in partnership with 240 organizations to advance shared policy initiatives that advocate for housing stability for all Minnesotans. GTCUW joined more than 100 organizations and 800 people as a co-sponsor of Homeless Day on the Hill. As a result, this event connected attendees to their legislators to raise awareness and advocate for state investments that focus on preventing and ending homelessness.

Economic Opportunity:

- 1 in 4 people in our community cannot afford basic needs.⁴
- By 2024, Minnesota is projected to have 400,000 unfilled jobs. 63% of those jobs will require some education beyond high school, yet there's a gap in training to fill those positions.⁵
- Educational disparities for youth translate into income disparities for adults, disparately affecting people of color who earn \$31,800 less per year than their white neighbors.⁶
- According to a Brookings report for the 2016-17 period, Minneapolis-Saint Paul ranks among the "Worst Performing" of 100 metro areas for economic inclusion (88th) and for racial inclusion (92nd).⁷
- **GTCUW envisions a region where all adults have the opportunity to participate in the workforce and advance toward family-sustaining wages.**
- In 2018, 9,432 adults accessed resources for increased earnings.
- Program participants increased their annual earnings by \$23,010 on average.
- GTCUW helped establish and is an active member of the Minneapolis St. Paul Workforce Innovation Network (MSPWin). The coalition secured state investments of \$8.5 million for the Pathways to Prosperity Program in 2018. These investments connect adults with low incomes to pathways to meet the demands of our workforce and earn higher incomes.

Education:

- 80% of brain development occurs by age 3⁸, and more than 33,000 children across Minnesota are unable to access quality early childhood care and education during their most critical years for learning.⁹
- Today, children facing poverty are less likely to access quality early learning opportunities and more likely to experience trauma that impacts brain development and learning.¹⁰
- Our state continues to face one of the worst opportunity gaps in the nation for students of color – posing immediate and long-term impacts.¹¹

³ 2018 Minnesota Homeless Study. Wilder Research. March, 2019. <http://mnhomeless.org/minnesota-homeless-study/reports-and-fact-sheets/2018/2018-homeless-characteristics-fact-sheet-5-19.pdf>

⁴ United States Census Bureau. S1701 POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. (*count of individuals below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines*)

⁵ Compass Points 2017. Minnesota Compass. https://www.mncompass.org/_pdfs/compass-points-2017.pdf

⁶ Median Income. Minnesota Compass. 2017. <https://www.mncompass.org/economy/median-income#7-4810-d>

⁷ Metro Monitor 2019: Inclusion remains elusive amid widespread metro growth and rising prosperity. Brookings Institute. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/metro-monitor-2019-inclusion-remains-elusive-amid-widespread-metro-growth-and-rising-prosperity/>

⁸ Baby's Brain Begins Now: Conception to Age 3. The Urban Child Institute. <http://www.urbanchildinstitute.org/why-0-3/baby-and-brain>

⁹ Close Gaps by 5. <http://www.closegapsby5.org/>

¹⁰ Hughes M, Tucker W. Poverty as an Adverse Childhood Experience. North Carolina Medical Journal. 2018.

¹¹ Minnesota Compass. <https://www.mncompass.org/education/overview>

- **GTCUW envisions a region where all children are ready to thrive academically, personally, and socially.**
- In 2018, we supported 46,995 infants, toddlers, preschoolers, youth, and parents toward educational success in our community.
- GTCUW hosts Action Day every year, an annual volunteer event to pack backpacks with the school supplies needed for children and youth to succeed in school. In 2018 over 2,700 people attended Action Day and packed 25,000 backpacks.
- GTCUW co-founded and co-chairs the statewide MinneMinds coalition, comprised of 100 partners focused on increasing public funding for high-quality early childcare and education programs. To date, our collective advocacy efforts have resulted in more than \$85 million in state funding to support early learning.
- In 2015, GTCUW launched Career Academies, which prepares high school students for in-demand jobs through real-world career experiences and opportunities to earn college credits and career credentials. To date, Career Academies has engaged 4,800 high school students. Students have collectively earned 6,244 college credits, 187 industry credentials, and saved \$1.9 million in tuition through participating in Career Academies.

Food Security:

- Minnesotans visited food shelves a record 3.4 million times in 2017. This marks 7 years in a row of record high food shelf usage.¹²
- Nearly one in ten (9.5%) households in Minnesota experience food insecurity.¹³
- **GTCUW envisions a region where episodes of hunger are rare, brief, and nonrecurring.**
- In 2018, GTCUW nonprofit partners served 20.3 million meals.
- With support from the General Mills Foundation, GTCUW launched an innovative place-based initiative called Full Lives. Full Lives invests in local community-based nonprofits to build sustainable food systems by addressing whole neighborhoods and building lasting resources beyond the traditional meal programs and food shelves. The first phase of Full Lives focused on the food community in North Minneapolis, and Full Lives is now expanding to Buffalo, New York and Toronto.

¹² Food Shelves See Record Number of Visits in 2017. Hunger Solutions. Sept 2018. <http://www.hungersolutions.org/data-posts/food-shelves-see-record-number-of-visits-in-2017/>

¹³ Coleman-Jensen A, Rabbitt MP, Gregory CA, et al. 2018. Household Food Security in the United States in 2017. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.