Economic Instability in Minnesota

491,782 Minnesotans (including 140,103 children under age 18) live in households that are below the federal poverty threshold.*

*$21,720 for a family of three in 2020.

"Many families in our area are really struggling to make ends meet. The lack of good paying jobs affects so many physically and emotionally."

~ Rev. Kevin Anderson, Princeton

Poverty rates for Minnesotans of color are 3 - 4 times greater than those of white Minnesotans

Poverty rates for Minnesotans with disabilities are 2+ times greater than those of Minnesotans without a disability

Benton County

Population: 40,889
Households in Poverty: 8.6% (up from 6.7% in 2000)
Children K-12 Receiving Free/Reduced Lunch: 30.4%
Number of Children in Child Care Assistance Program: 243
Cost-burdened* Renter Households: 51%
Severely Cost-burdened* Renter Households: 23%

*Cost-burdened households pay more than 30% of income for housing. Severely cost-burdened households pay more than 50%.

"I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land'."

~ Deuteronomy 15:11

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Population and Poverty Data from the US Census Bureau (2019)
Free and Reduced Lunch Data from the Minnesota Department of Health (2017-18 school year)
CCAP data from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (February 2020)
Housing Data from US Census, American Community Survey (2017); Minnesota Housing Partnership State of the State's Housing Report (2019)