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.

“In the relatively affluent areas on the edge of the metro, there are hidden pockets of poverty. A number of households in my parish are working multiple jobs to make ends meet. Others face health challenges which limit their ability to work and care for their families. A strong social safety net is vital for these beloved children of God.”

~ Pastor Michael Mansager, Farmington

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.

Dakota County

Population: 429,021
Households in Poverty: 6.3% (up from 3.5% in 2000)
Children K-12 Receiving Free/Reduced Lunch: 27.4%
Number of Children in Child Care Assistance Program: 2,082
Cost-burdened* Renter Households: 43%
Severely Cost-burdened* Renter Households: 20%

*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)