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.

“There is much poverty and homelessness in rural Minnesota. In the churches, we experience it firsthand, as we are often the first place people turn for help. In our area, we can provide some help, but our limited food shelves and emergency resources aren’t enough.”

~ Rev. Tony Romaine, Staples

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

Population: 35,893
Households in Poverty: 6.3% (up from 5.2% in 2000)
Children K-12 Receiving Free/Reduced Lunch: 31.8%
Number of Children in Child Care Assistance Program: 19
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

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)

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