

Still No Recovery in Sight for Many Morgan County Residents

The post-recession period has produced the “perfect storm” for those in the lowest income brackets. According to the National Employment Labor Project, **58% of new job growth occurred in low-wage industries** (such as food services, retail and temporary employment services). These are typically jobs staffed by those with the least education; however, there is now new competition from those who were displaced from higher-level jobs during and after the recession. “The Poverty and Inequality Report 2014” by the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality notes that “[E]ven though unemployment rose for everyone...[I]t is high school graduates and high school dropouts who have borne the brunt of the Great Recession.”

In Indiana, more than 561,000 adults 25 and older do not have a high school diploma.

1.5 million more have only a high school diploma or GED. (Source: STATS Indiana)



No High School Diploma or GED

12.8% of Morgan County residents
5,936 working age adults

High School Diploma / GED

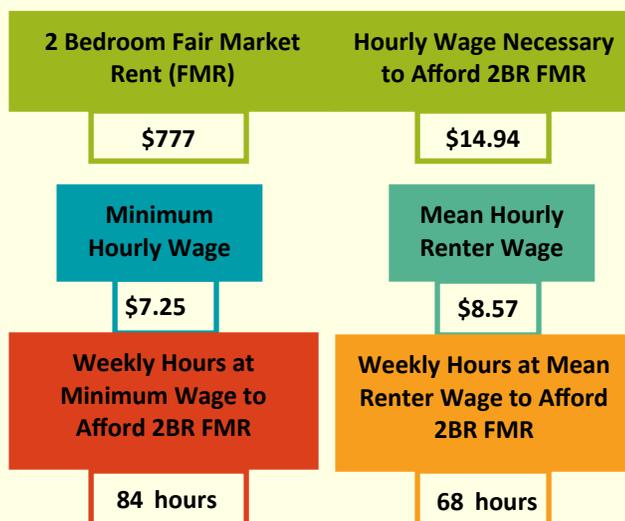
40.4% of Morgan County residents
18,824 working age adults



For those fortunate enough to secure a job, many still have trouble making financial ends meet. The Indiana Institute of Working Families noted that **“71 percent of all jobs were in occupations that pay less than what is required for economic self-sufficiency (200 percent of the FPG) and 24 percent were in occupations that pay wages below the poverty line.”**

These wages make it difficult to meet a family’s basic needs. Affordable housing tops the basic needs list. According to the 2014 “Out of Reach” report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, **“In no state can a full-time minimum wage worker afford a one-bedroom or a two-bedroom rental unit at Fair Market Rent.”**

As the “Out of Reach” data on the right show, **many renters working full-time jobs (40 hours per week) still can’t afford housing.** (The majority of those with a high school diploma or less earn much closer to the minimum wage, rather than the mean renter wage).



Data from 2-1-1 reflect the difficulties faced by callers in Morgan County, causing them to reach out for help.

Illness/Disability - 23%

Unemployed / Laid-Off - 22%

Homeless/ Doubled-Up - 9%

From April 2013 through March 2014, **1,885** 2-1-1 callers from Morgan County asked for help with **2,654** needs and received **3,376** referrals to community resources. Another **1,119** searched our online database (www.Connect2Help.org) to find resources.

Top Morgan County Needs

Utilities - 15%



Housing - 15%



Financial - 10%



Food - 10%



Health - 9%



In the last 12 months, **10%** of Morgan County callers’ needs were recorded as “unmet” by 2-1-1.

Top Morgan County Unmet Needs

Housing - 23%



Utilities - 21%



Holiday Assistance - 8%



Goods - 7%



Transportation - 7%



If you or someone you know needs help, dial 2-1-1 (24/7/365) or visit www.Connect2Help.org.