

Painfully Slow Climb Out of Recession Leaves Many Hoosiers in Need

(And How YOU Can Help)

A 2012 National Employment Labor Project report revealed that **middle-wage occupations accounted for almost 60% of job losses during the Great Recession, but only 22% of job growth** in the post-recession period. Conversely, **lower-wage jobs accounted for 21% of job losses during the Recession, but 58% of job growth** in the post-recession period. A 2012 report by the Indiana Institute for Working Families revealed what this means for Hoosiers. **“As of 2011 in Indiana, 71% of all jobs were in occupations that pay less than what is required for economic self-sufficiency (200 percent of federal poverty guidelines).”**

For a family of four, 200% of the federal poverty guidelines is \$47,111.	This is more than the 2012 median income for Indiana households—\$46,964.	15.5% of Indiana residents—1,013,287 people—live in poverty, far below this median income level.	The percentage of Indiana children living in poverty is even higher— 22.1%— 351,716 kids.
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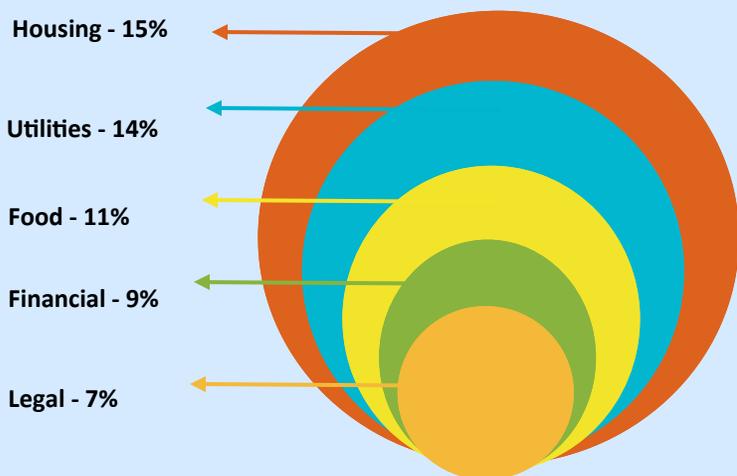
Connect2Help 2-1-1 has regular contact with Indiana residents who need help. In 2013, **279,705 called 2-1-1**; another **166,002 searched our online database (www.Connect2Help.org)** for community resources; **10,372 professionals or paraprofessionals downloaded *The Rainbow Book***, a directory of community resources, to have information on hand to help clients.

Assessments with 2-1-1 callers revealed some common barriers to economic self-sufficiency.

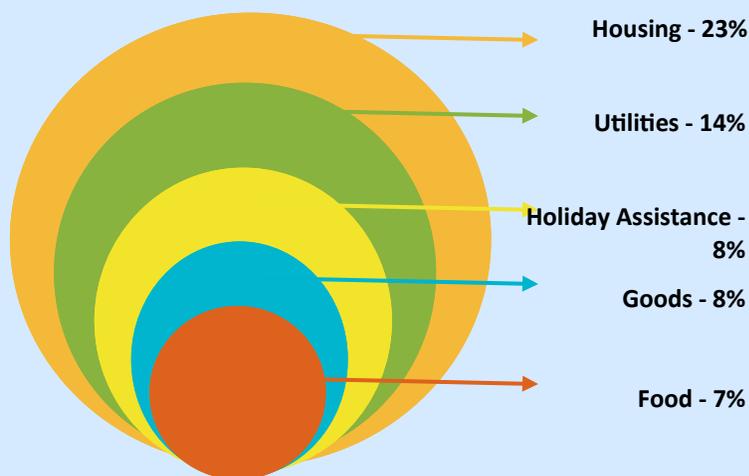
Illness/Disability - 21%	Unemployed/Laid-Off - 20%	Homeless/Doubled-Up - 10%
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Connect2Help 2-1-1 callers reported **345,694 needs** and received **471,132 referrals** to community resources, from a database of **more than 6,000 not-for-profit, faith-based, and government services**. However, there simply are not enough resources to meet all needs; **9% of callers’ needs were recorded as “unmet”** by Connect2Help 2-1-1. The main reasons needs were unmet included **“no resource - 25%”** and **“client not eligible for service - 24%.”**

Top Needs by Major Category



Top Unmet Needs by Major Category



How YOU can help

Identification is the first step to improvement. Every single person can have a positive impact on the community, but not everyone knows what kind of help is needed. **Connect2Help 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Dial 2-1-1 or visit www.Connect2Help.org** to learn about human services programs in your area.

Act on what you’ve learned about your community.

- Time → Help out in a food pantry, shelter, community center, or any other organization in which you are interested. Working directly with those who need help makes abstract concepts like “poverty” and “hunger” real and personal. This provides the motivation to keep investing in the community.
- Skills → Offer leadership, computer, accounting, or any other number of talents to community organizations. Every skill you donate offsets the cost of running these programs. These saved dollars can then be used to help Hoosiers residents in need.
- Dollars → Direct financial contributions streamline the process of providing help to people in your community. A tax deduction for you could literally save someone’s life.

Get Help → 2-1-1 ← Give Help