

## Painfully Slow Climb Out of Recession Leaves Many Putnam County Residents 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**.

The 2012 median household income for Putnam County residents is **\$47,161**.

**13.1%** of Putnam County residents—**4,945 people**—live in poverty, far below this median income level. The percentage of Putnam county children living in poverty is even higher—**17.0% — 1,320 kids**.

Connect2Help 2-1-1 has regular contact with Putnam County residents who need help. In 2013, **359 called 2-1-1**; another **400 searched our online database (www.Connect2Help.org)** for community resources; **150 professionals or paraprofessionals downloaded the Putnam County 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 - 23%**

**Unemployed/Laid-Off - 23%**

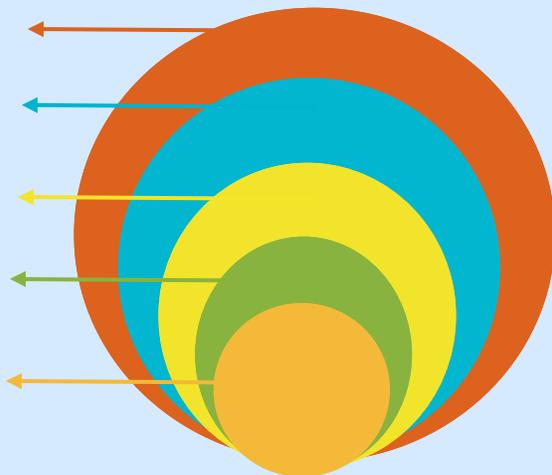
**Homeless/Doubled-Up - 9%**



Putnam County residents reported **529 needs** and received **596 referrals** to community resources, from a database of **nearly 800 programs** that serve people in the county. However, there simply are not enough resources to meet all needs; **10% of Putnam County callers' needs were recorded as “unmet”** by Connect2Help 2-1-1. The main reasons needs were unmet included **“no resource - 52%”** and **“client not eligible for service - 25%.”**

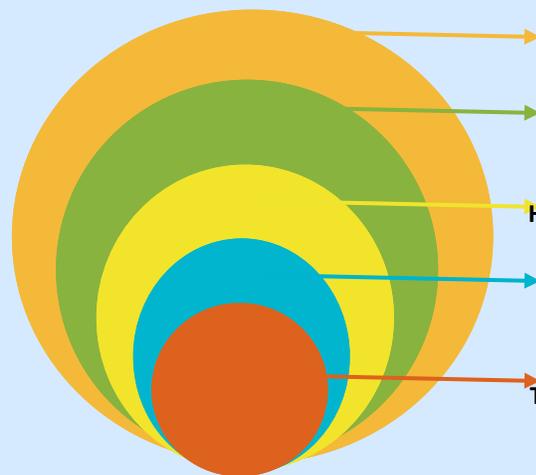
### Top Putnam County Needs

Utilities - 19%  
Housing - 14%  
Financial - 11%  
Food - 8%  
Health - 8%



### Top Putnam County Unmet Needs

Utilities - 38%  
Housing - 19%  
Holiday Assistance - 13%  
Goods - 8%  
Transportation - 6%



### 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 nearly 800 human services programs that serve Putnam County.

#### 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 Putnam County residents in need.

#### Dollars

Direct financial contributions streamline the process of providing help to people in Putnam County. A tax deduction for you could literally save someone's life.