

Still No Recovery in Sight for Many Putnam 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

14.3% of Putnam County residents
3,533 working age adults

High School Diploma / GED

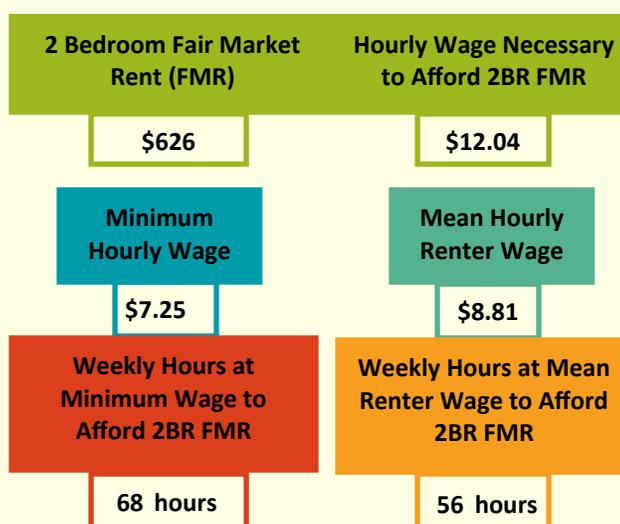
40.3% of Putnam County residents
9,939 working age adults



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 Putnam County, causing them to reach out for help.

Illness/Disability - 27%

Unemployed / Laid-Off - 21%

Homeless/ Doubled-Up - 8%

From April 2013 through March 2014, 444 2-1-1 callers from Putnam County asked for help with 646 needs and received 793 referrals to community resources. Another 574 searched our online database (www.Connect2Help.org) to find resources.

Top Putnam County Needs

Utilities - 21%



Housing - 12%



Financial - 11%



Health - 8%



Food - 8%



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

Top Putnam County Unmet Needs

Utilities - 35%



Housing - 19%



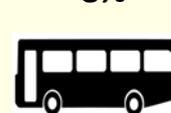
Holiday Assistance - 11%



Goods - 10%



Transportation - 8%



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