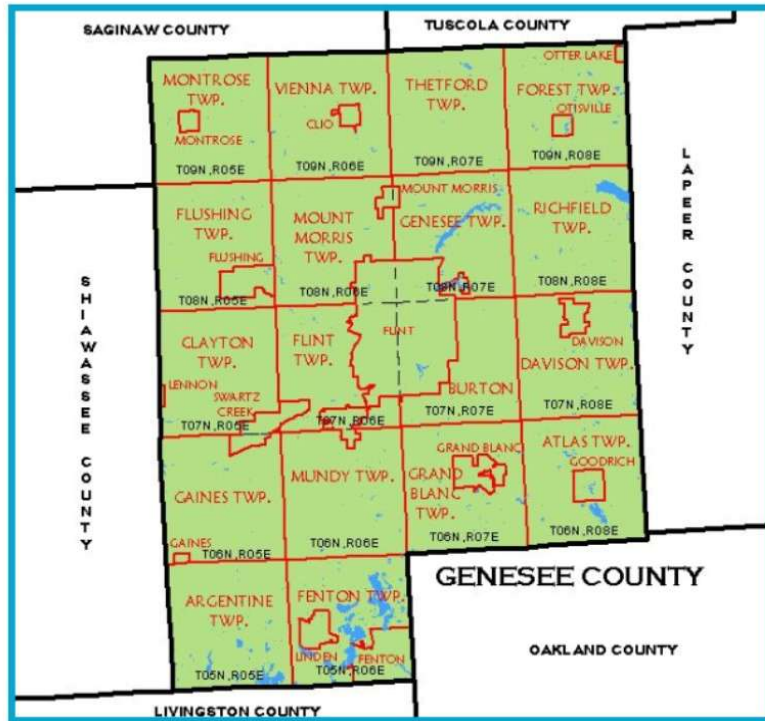


GENESEE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ACTION
RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT



2025



An Open Door. A Helping Hand.



Table of Contents

Content	Page
Executive Summary.....	3
GCCARD Administrators and Manager.....	4
Our Mission Statement.....	4
GCCARD’s Core Values.....	4
Genesee County’s Common Purpose, Core Values & Goals.....	5
2024 GCCARD Advisory Board.....	5
Introduction.....	6
GCCARD’s Director.....	7
Genesee County Board of Commissioners.....	7
GCCARD’s Needs Assessment Process.....	8
National Community Action Goals.....	8
Methodology.....	8
GCCARD’s History.....	10
GCCARD’s Service Area.....	12
GCCARD Service Area Demographics.....	15-36
Key Findings: Causes of Poverty.....	37
Key Findings: Conditions in which people in poverty are living.....	38
Key Findings: Organizational recommendations.....	38
Summary.....	40
Appendix 1.0: Demographic Data – Tables, Maps, Charts and Graphs.....	43
Appendix 2.0: Community Needs Assessment Questions & Aggregated Responses.....	45
Appendix 3.0: Customer Satisfaction Data Summaries.....	56
Appendix 4.0: GCCARD Employee Data.....	59
Appendix 5.0: Community Resources.....	61
Appendix 6.0: References.....	64



Executive Summary

Genesee County Community Action Resource Department is the designated anti-poverty agency for Genesee County. It works effectively and collaboratively with other partners at the local, state, and federal levels to address the root causes of poverty and to develop strategies, programs, and services to meet the needs of those affected by poverty.

GCCARD develops a Community Action Plan every year that serves to identify and assess the related needs and resources in the community. It also formulates a detailed plan, with goals, and priorities for delivering services to individuals and families most affected by poverty. (GCCARD 2022 Needs Assessment). GCCARD also completes a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) every three years to understand the causes and conditions of poverty within its service area which includes all of Genesee County. The CNA process includes obtaining input from those in poverty using interviews, survey questionnaires, customer satisfaction data, and input from community residents, staff, and community representatives. In addition, the CNA process includes a review of secondary data, census data, reports, and other pertinent research information to better assess the cause and conditions of those in poverty. This process also provides a look inward at the organization to assess appropriate ways to improve its delivery of programs and services.

Finally, the process includes an environmental scan of local resources to identify new resources and partners to improve its supportive services. The overall goal of the CNA is to support GCCARD in its efforts to fulfill its mission, uphold its values and work collaboratively with others in building strategic partnerships to address community needs over the next five years.

This report describes key findings that can aid in the development of the GCCARD 5-Year Strategic Plan for 2025-2030. The CNA process plays a significant role in enabling GCCARD to understand, as well as advocate for positive improvements to address identified unmet needs and other concerns impacting individuals in poverty. Furthermore, through the information gained from the CNA process and the sharing of this report, GCCARD can educate others on the needs identified that impact people in poverty in Genesee County.

This reporting process was implemented by GCCARD's Program Development Specialist in collaboration with GCCARD's Administrative and Management teams with support from GCCARD's Clerical team and staff who contributed their input and data. GCCARD would like to thank everyone for their assistance including community residents, youth, the GCCARD Advisory Board and others that played a role in the development of this Community Needs Assessment (CNA). We look forward to working with you in the future.



2025 -2028

Community Needs Assessment

Genesee County

Community Action Resource Department

(GCCARD)

Location: 1101 Beach Street, Ste. 285,
Flint, Michigan 48502
810-232-2185

GCCARD Hotline: 810-768-4675

GCCARD’s Administrators:

Executive Director- Pamela Coleman

Deputy Director- Shardae Davis

Program Dev. Specialist:

Linda Patrick

Katherine Landon

Document Control:

Cora Adams- Clerk

James Mitchell Jr.- Clerk

Administration:

Kristina McPherson – Admin. Assistant

Callie Dolson – Clerical Assistant

Ernestine Burnett - Office Assistant

GCCARD’s Management Team

- **Early Head Start and Head Start**
 - Kelli Webb, Manager
- **Neighborhood Service Center**
 - Monica Bullock, Manager

- **Nutrition Services**
 - Chevon Wilborn, Manager
- **USDA Supplemental Food**
 - Karen Moton, Asst. Manager

GCCARD’s Mission Statement

Your Genesee County Community Action Resource Department is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life within the county by preventing and alleviating the causes of poverty, mobilizing, and directing resources to assist, educate and promote self-sufficiency.

GCCARD’s Core Values:

Commitment, Community, Compassion, Equity, Excellence, Innovation, Integrity, Opportunity, Service, Social Justice

Input from GCCARD’s staff during our needs assessment process established the ten core values for GCCARD listed above. GCCARD’s staff works to ensure all persons served are treated with dignity and respect as we work to make positive impacts for residents in Genesee County. Our staff complies with all equal protection laws and regulations while we collectively adhere to our mission and core values and those of Genesee County.



Genesee County’s Common Purpose, Core Values and Goals

GCCARD is a department of the County of Genesee. In 2023 Genesee County introduced a framework known as Common Purpose which was established through staff and community input and approved by the Genesee County Board of Commissioners in its strategic planning process to unite all county departments through core values and priorities. GCCARD’s mission and core values integrate into those described below to adhere to the County’s “Common Purpose” of:

“Making a Positive Impact for Genesee County”

and upholding the County’s seven “Core Values” of:

Excellence, Trust, Integrity, Service, Inclusiveness, Compassion and Teamwork

to achieve the following county government goals:

- **Healthy, Livable and Safe Communities**
- **Long Term Financial Stability**
- **Inclusive, Collaborative Culture,**
- **Community Growth**



For more information on Genesee County government see the county’s website at geneseecountymi.gov.

GCCARD’s 2025 Advisory Board

GCCARD receives guidance, input and support from its tripartite Advisory Board which meets every other month beginning in January on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m., in room 222, at 1101 Beach St., Flint, MI 48502. The meeting is open to the public. The GCCARD tripartite Advisory Board members represent residents who may utilize GCCARD services and representatives of the public and private sectors.

County Residents:

- Adia Wheeler
- Esther J. Dupens
- Cynthia Howell
- Danyell Wheeler
- Vacant



Private Sector:

- Mildred Hood
- Yvonne Outland
- Tamitha Taylor
- Jason Lesiewicz
- Vacant

Public Sector:

- Senator John Cherry
- Mayor Sheldon Neeley- City of Flint
- Sheriff Christopher Swanson
- County Commissioner James Avery
- County Commissioner Charles Winfrey

GCCARD is a member of the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP), which is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit membership organization established to provide technical assistance, training, and resources to Community Action Agencies, nonprofits and public groups funded by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). GCCARD is also supported by local, state, and federal grants, as well as private donations.



Introduction

GCCARD is committed and mandated to identify the needs that exist and the causes and conditions of those experiencing poverty within its service area every three years. This document covers the period of 2025-2028.

The US Census Bureau's data reflects that there were 37.9 million Americans living in poverty in 2022 and that 11.5% of those in poverty was not statistically different than in 2021 (U.S. Census, 2022). The U.S. Census estimates that there were 401,522 people living in Genesee County on July 1, 2023, and this reflects a loss of population since 2020 of -1.2%. Of this population, 16.4% are people living in poverty. In the county seat of Flint, which had an estimated population of 79,661 during this period according to the U.S. Census, 33.3% of its population was living in poverty.

Understanding census data is important in considering the conditions in which people are living in our nation, our state and within our community. . This report utilized charts and graphs made available from the National Community Action Partnership based on U.S. Census data and from its American Community Survey and other sources as noted. In addition, the methodology section of this report provides details on how primary data was gathered.

The National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) of which GCCARD is affiliated states, "The nation's Community Action Agencies embody our nation's spirit of hope, change people's lives, and improve communities. When national, state, and local leaders tap into these agencies' experience they can promote workable solutions that connect families to opportunities-and make

America a better place to live for everyone." (communitypartnership.com/about-us/).

The Poor People's Campaign works to bring attention to the needs of those in poverty in the U.S and advocate policy recommendations. It produces fact sheets on poverty for each state in the U.S. using census data. Their Michigan fact sheet states, "Poverty and Low Wages: Poverty is a policy choice, reflecting both low wages and high cost of living. These two conditions make it hard to meet basic needs and easy to fall into debt. In Michigan between 2018-2020 low-income people accounted for 33% of the population. To meet their basic needs, a household with two adults and two children need to earn over \$27/hour. However, the current minimum wage is just 10.10/hour. At this wage, an individual must work 86 hours/week to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment." GCCARD recognizes the importance of advocating for those in need and assisting in developing strategies to bring about positive changes. It works with other partners to support those in need, to prevent homelessness and address other critical needs such as higher wages, food insecurity, water resources and input of those we serve.

The Governor of Michigan, Gretchen Whitmer established the Michigan Poverty Task Force in 2019 under the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) to identify additional ways Michigan families can be lifted out of poverty by strengthening, broadening, streamlining and increasing coordination at the state level. She states, "No parent should have to choose between paying rent and putting food on the table for their families." (Michigan.gov/Leo/initiatives/poverty-task-force). This commitment is important for organizations such as GCCARD and other partnering organizations that are supported by various state level departments and grants.



GCCARD Director

On January 3, 2024, **Ms. Pamela Coleman** was approved and appointed by the Genesee County Board of Commissioners as the Director of GCCARD. Ms. Coleman confirmed her commitment to work to fulfill the mission of GCCARD. She affirmed that GCCARD will serve as an open door and helping hand to assist those in need within Genesee County. She further stated, "I will make diligent efforts to promote Genesee County's values and priorities through the programs and services currently offered while seeking opportunities for expansion." (MLive Updated: 1/1/24 and Published: 1/5/24).

Genesee County Board of Commissioners:

Genesee county is governed by nine County Commissioners representing a specific district of the county. The Genesee County Board of Commissioners has authority over the budget and establishes policies and procedures. The County government also operates the county jail, maintain county roads, operates local courts, records and maintain files of deeds and mortgages as well as vital records, administers and safeguards public health and welfare through the provision of social services. The representatives for the 2025-2029 term are shown below:



District 1
Delrico J Loyd

District 2
Charles Winfrey

District 3
Gary Goetzinger

District 4
Dr. Beverly Brown

District 5
James Avery



District 6
Shaun Shumaker

District 7
Martin Cousineau

District 8
Dale Weighill

District 9
Brian Flewelling

To view county commissioners district maps, go to: geneseecountymi.gov.



GCCARD Needs Assessment Process

The GCCARD Needs Assessment process is part of the **Results Oriented Management and Accountability Cycle (ROMA)** used by Community Action Agencies. The ROMA cycle focuses its efforts on customers/clients, community, and organizational change instead of a particular program or service.

The elements of **ROMA** include the following components:

- **Assessment** – GCCARD assesses the community needs and resources within its service area.
- **Planning**- GCCARD uses its mission statement and assessment data to identify results and strategies to address needs.
- **Implementation**- GCCARD offers services and strategies that produce results to improve the lives of those we serve. All programs and services are implemented in accordance with local, state, and federal laws, regulations, policies, and procedures, in addition to regulatory directives to ensure compliance with funders and governmental authorities.
- **Achievement of Results** – GCCARD observes the results achieved by each program through a review of program data. GCCARD listens to those who receive services through comments provided in customer satisfaction surveys, reports provided on service delivery and reports on progress to funders, boards, and the public. Achievement of results is measured not only by the number of clients served in each program but also by the level of satisfaction that our customers report as staff implements our mission.
- **Evaluation**-GCCARD continually analyzes data and compares it to planned benchmarks to determine results and to improve service delivery for all programs and the organization. GCCARD uses the needs assessment to develop a Strategic Plan and a Community Action Plan that aids in the implementation of services delivered to low-income individuals and families affected by poverty.

National Community Action Goals:

1. Individuals and families with low incomes are stable and achieve economic security.
2. Communities where people with low incomes live are healthy and offer economic opportunities.
3. People with low incomes are engaged and active in building opportunities in communities.

Methodology used for this report:

The methodology used to complete the needs assessment involved receiving qualitative data obtained through interviews and listening sessions based on survey questions developed particularly for this needs assessment process. An environmental scan of secondary data sources was conducted along with the use of quantitative data from the following sources listed below and in Appendix 6.0.

U.S. Census, American Community Survey (ACS) data, Talk Poverty's Yearly Poverty by State Data, USA Community Action Agency Partnership Data Report by State and City.

The listening sessions phase of the needs assessment process was carried out by hosting telephone interviews and/or face to face interview sessions guided by a series of questions developed to gain input in key areas. A copy of the questions and responses used are in Appendix 2.0.

GCCARD's staff reached out to a variety of participants to ensure a diverse view of opinions was achieved and offered anonymous surveys online, in person, and through the interviews/listening sessions. Individuals involved in the collection of these details included:

- Residents who have experienced poverty
- Residents living in low-income areas
- Community and neighborhood volunteers
- Youth on the Genesee County Youth Commission
- GCCARD 2024 Advisory Board members
- GCCARD staff from various departments

Customer Satisfaction data from GCCARD's programs and departments was also reviewed. Customer input on the services received is a critical part of the agency's assessment process.



GCCARD customer satisfaction survey data were summarized and highlighted into Customer Satisfaction Survey Summaries within this report (See Appendix 3.0). Input was provided by GCCARD Head Start and Early Head Start Department as well as a review of their 2023 Annual Report and Customer Satisfaction survey data. For copies of the Head Start and Early Head Start Annual Report and the GCCARD Annual Report please visit <https://www.geneseecountymi.gov/departments/gccard> Our survey process utilized a small sample size and therefore supplemental data sources enabled us to have a

more accurate assessment and better perspective of the needs within the GCCARD service area.

At the organizational level we utilized input from staff on key questions. This process aided in identifying other supporters and providers of services to low-income people. It also offered GCCARD an opportunity to assess areas in which it may need to develop or establish new partnerships throughout the county to address new areas of consideration.

GCCARD's History

Community Action is an outgrowth of President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty" and the activism and advocacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Following President Johnson's signing of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 he stated, "For so long as man has lived on earth, poverty has been his curse. On every continent, in every age, men have sought escape from poverty's oppression. Today for the first time in all of the history of the human race, a great nation is able to make and is willing to make a commitment to eradicate poverty among its people."

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 created the Community Action Network of national and locally focused organizations. Over time, the Community Action Network has worked effectively to connect individuals and families to resources, improve conditions for those in poverty and eradicate the causes and conditions of poverty. GCCARD, like other community action anti-poverty agencies, strives to achieve the national vision for community action agencies..."to create opportunities for all people to thrive, build strong, resilient communities and ensure a more equitable society."

Genesee County Community Resource Department (GCCARD) as it is currently named, was previously named Genesee County Community Action Agency (GCCAA) but was originally incorporated under the name of COMPACT which was the (Committee to Promote Action, COMPACT) on March 24, 1965. Since

its inception, it has functioned as the designated anti-poverty agency for Genesee County under the auspices of Genesee County Board of Commissioners. It received its first federal planning grant as COMPACT from the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in June of 1965 in the amount of \$28,000. The planning grant laid the groundwork for additional funding of \$553,000 to implement and administer programming at its first office location at 119 West Fifth Street in Flint in a building owned by the Genesee County government. Numerous planning meetings were held prior to incorporation and therefore some records indicate the organization began in February of 1964 which is attributed to its initial planning period.

The importance of taking services to low-income populations instead of having them navigate services on their own, was a significant change in service delivery methods for human service organizations at that time with COMPACT staff leading the effort to decentralize services for improved access. The COMPACT staff was tasked with the authority to decentralize services to meet the needs of those they served by establishing Neighborhood Service Centers in the Flint and Beecher communities and locating the main administrative offices within the Flint central business district with all locations accessible along bus routes. On June 30, 1967, COMPACT's main office moved to the Dryden building, located at 601 Saginaw Street and on February 19, 1968, the two Neighborhood Service Centers were located on St. John Street in Flint and on North Saginaw Street in the Beecher community. The agency offered a wide array



of programs and services to meet the needs of low-income individuals and families. At the Community Action Centers, low-income households received referrals for medical and dental services, employment counseling, mental health services, consumer counseling services, marital and family counseling support, transportation assistance and they were also allowed to use the facility to host and attend group action meetings and activities.

Following the implementation of the Greene Amendment of 1967, local elected officials had the authority to designate the official Community Action Agency (CAA) for their areas and only after such official recognition could the OEO fund a CAA. In the summer of 1971, COMPACT became the designated agency of Genesee County government and changed its name to Genesee County Community Action Agency (GCCAA).

The name was changed from GCCAA to Genesee County Community Resource Department (GCCARD) in 2000 as it was recognized as a department instead of an agency in 2000 by the Genesee County Board of Commissioners. The offices were then moved to 601 N. Saginaw St. with a separate location for food services at 2727 Lippincott Blvd in Flint. The current location for the Neighborhood Service Center and the Administrative Office are centrally located within the Genesee County Administration Building located at 1101 S. Beach Street, Flint Michigan, with the Food Services, USDA Supplemental Food Program, the Weatherization Program offices and the Senior Nutrition Program remaining at the decentralized Lippincott location. The Head Start and Early Head Start Programs moved from 601 N. Saginaw Street to 711 N. Saginaw in December 2023. The Head Start programs continue to use a decentralized approach with support to families within their home and through other school and community-based sites throughout the county.

The GCCARD service area includes the entire geographical boundary for the county. The geographical areas which are also pertinent to GCCARD's anti-poverty efforts include the nine districts or areas in Genesee County from which members of the GCCARD Area Action Councils and the GCCARD Head Start/ Early Head Start Program's Parent Policy Council were previously elected. These groups represented the elected representatives of residents in

selected low-income target areas in Genesee County. The Area Action Councils (AAC) became inactive during the Covid 19 pandemic years. However, input by low-income representatives remains, as well as input from the public and private sectors as representatives on the Genesee County Community Action Department (GCCARD) tripartite Advisory Board. The Parent Policy Council members currently were elected from the Beecher Early Head Start (EHS), Mott EHS and Grantee Programs with five representatives that represent GCCARD's HS/EHS Program for Genesee County.

The organization's purpose has remained clear throughout the years by devising and establishing, with all available resources, ways, and means of accomplishing this end within the framework of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, and its successor legislation. The successor legislation has included but is not limited to the following: the Community Services Block Grant Act of 1974; Head Start, Economic Opportunity and Community Partnership Act of 1974, the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1994, The 1994, Amendment to the CSBG Act, the 1998 Reauthorization of the CSBG Act, the 2010 GPRA Modernization Act, and other Office of Community Services directives and guidance throughout the years. The tenets and purposes of these legislations established clear requirements that continue to be the foundation in which the organization adheres. They also serve as primary requirements for the functions deemed instrumental in achieving the community action goals for Genesee County implemented by GCCARD.

GCCARD's success as an organization to achieve its mission has been due to the commitment by staff and its leadership team, volunteers, along with the support from numerous partners, funders, and supporters. We extend our gratitude to all who work to make Genesee County a safe, equitable and overall better place to live, work and play.



GCCARD Service Area:

Genesee County

Genesee County, Michigan is an urban metropolitan county with a population of 406,211 based on the 2020 census and 401,522 based on estimates for July 1, 2023, according to US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. According to the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, the county seat is Flint which has the highest population of all other municipalities within the county with 79,661 based on the 7/1/23 estimates and 81,252 based on the 2020 census. The county stretches 33.44 square miles as noted in the data assessment report prepared for this needs assessment. Data for Genesee County reflects that it has a high population density per person per square mile compared to the national average. It is one of 83 counties in Michigan and is ranked as the 5th largest populous county in Michigan.



Genesee County: Shown in blue.

Genesee County is home to:

11 cities: Burton, Clio, Davison, Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Grand Blanc, Linden, Montrose, Mount Morris, and Swartz Creek.

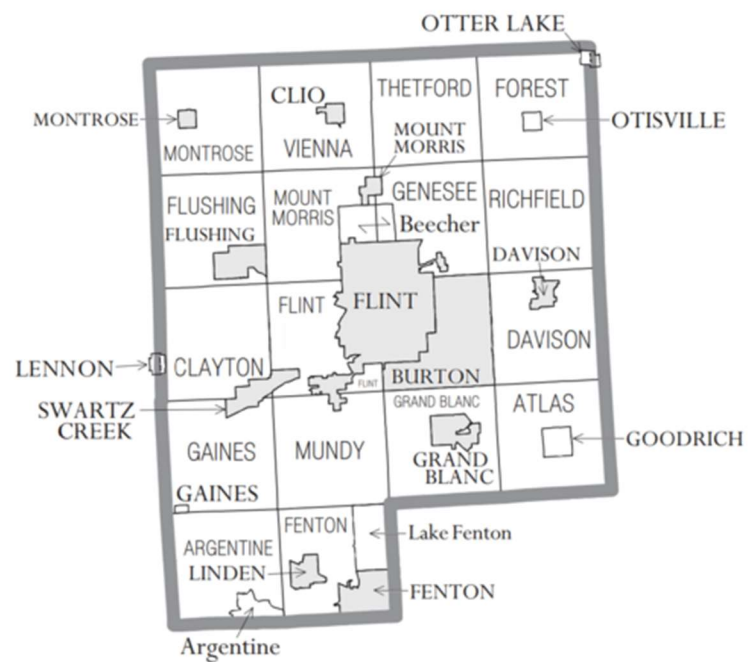
10 Charter Townships: Clayton, Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Genesee, Grand Blanc, Montrose, Mount Morris, Mundy, and Vienna Charter Township.

7 Civil Townships: Argentine, Atlas, Davison, Forest, Gaines, Richfield, and Thetford.

5 Villages: Gaines, Goodrich, Lennon, Otisville, and Otter Lake.

3 Census designated places: Argentine, Beecher and Lake Fenton.

20 unincorporated communities: Argentine, Atlas, Bayport Park, Beecher, Brent Creek, Duffield, Farrandville, Genesee, Huntingtown, Kipp Corners, Lake Fenton, Lakeside, Pine Run, Rankin, Richfield Center, Rogersville, Russellville, Thetford Center, Whigville and Whitesburg communities in the county.



Adjacent to Genesee County are the following counties:

- Tuscola County to the northeast
- Lapeer County to the east
- Oakland County to the southeast
- Livingston County to the southwest
- Shiawassee County to the west
- Saginaw County to the northwest



Genesee County history indicates it was created on March 28, 1835, from territory taken from Lapeer, Shiawassee, and Saginaw counties. (Bates, William R., *The Development of Flint* (1907)). It was once attached to Oakland County for judicial purposes. The county seat is in Flint which is the birthplace of General Motors. It is part of the Flint metropolitan statistical area (MSA). MSAs are defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and are used by the U.S. Census Bureau and other federal agencies for statistical purposes. The county includes the 7th and 8th congressional districts.

The 2025 GCCARD Community Needs Assessment covers the GCCARD service area which includes the entire Genesee County metropolitan area. Through our needs assessment process, we identified more needs for individuals and families in poverty within Genesee County beyond those mentioned previously. This information reflects that many people in our communities are confronting even greater challenges than some people living in developing countries in the world.

Transportation within the GCCARD Service Area:

The GCCARD needs assessment has determined that public transportation remains an important need for those in poverty. Public transportation access for low- and moderate-income persons, people with disabilities and special needs including people in poverty aids in promoting self-sufficiency. GCCARD has provided support for transportation assistance in Genesee County in the past and will continue to advocate and identify ways to provide support in this area through collaboration with local partners and within various human service agency networks.

The GCCARD service area is served by major transportation corridors I-75, I-475, I-69, and US-23. It is served by the Bishop International Airport that serves three major airlines with flights leaving out of Flint: Allegiant Air, American Airlines and United. The inter-modal transportation network includes the Flint Amtrak station offering service on the Blue Water route to Chicago and Port Huron in addition to the Indian Trails Bus Services, and the Flint Mass Transportation Authority.



The Flint Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) is the public transit operator serving Flint and surrounding Genesee County areas. It owns and operates the inter-modal station that serves Amtrak and Indian Trails. MTA operates routes in Flint and its inner suburbs with most routes beginning at the MTA Service Center in downtown Flint (Northrup-Abrams Transportation Center). It also offers regional routes to Auburn Hills, Michigan which links to the Metro Detroit SMART transportation network in addition to providing services to Brighton and Howell Michigan. It also provides services to customers with special needs on buses and through its Dial-a-Ride/Your Ride service which offers “Rides to Groceries, Rides to Wellness, and Rides to Worship.”

MTA serves as a reliable transportation mode for those in poverty as well as low- and moderate-income persons without personal transportation. GCCARD will continue to support transportation solutions that offer affordable, reliable, and quality transportation within our service area



Government Functions

In Michigan, the police, fire, building and zoning, tax assessment, and street maintenance are mostly local government functions. The 67th District Court is a limited jurisdiction court, authorized under state statute with jurisdiction over Genesee County including the City of Flint effective January 2016. It has ten elected judges, four appointed magistrates, nine probate officers and a staff of fifty employees (67thdc.com). For Genesee County its jurisdiction is over civil matters where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$25,000. It currently operates in five divisions and seven locations throughout the county.

Colleges and Universities

The Charles Stewart Mott Community College (MCC) is a public college governed by an elected board of trustees and it maintains the same county district boundary as the Genesee Intermediate School District. The MCC University Center houses Ferris State University, Michigan State University School of Social Work, Northwood University, Rochester Christian University and the University of Michigan-Flint, to provide opportunities for students to obtain a bachelor's or master's degree without leaving Genesee County.



The largest university in Flint is the University of Michigan-Flint that awarded (1,551) degrees in 2022. Mott Community College (1,114) degrees and Kettering University (545) degrees were awarded in 2022. (Data USA. Flint, (datausa.io/profile/geo/flint-mi#: ~text).

U.S. Census data indicates that High School graduation rates for persons ages 25 years and over between 2018-2022 for Genesee County was 91.0% and in the City of Flint it was 84.3% compared to 89.1% for the State of Michigan. Census data further reflects that those receiving a bachelor's degree or higher during this period for Genesee County was 22.8% and for the City of Flint it was only 12.3% which were both lower than the State average of 34.3%.

Status of Flint Water Crisis

The Flint drinking water is supplied by the Great Lakes Water Authority, and its quality is closely monitored to ensure it meets all state and federal water quality standards.

The Flint Water Crisis began in 2014 when the City of Flint changed its water supply to water taken from the highly contaminated Flint River, negatively impacting Flint residents of all ages and an estimate of 8,000 young children who are expected to be permanently harmed by lead poisoning. Lead poisoning is known to cause extreme problems to children's central and peripheral nervous system which can cause stunted growth, reduced IQ, and cause serious behavioral problems that can continue across a child's life span. In addition, residents not only suffered health issues, particularly children and pregnant women, but also property damage. As of April 2025, over a decade since the incident began, residents and their families are still faced with the lingering effects of the Flint Water Crisis and are seeking assistance to cover the costs related to the charges incurred for the use of the water they were forced to cope with. During the Water Crisis, GCCARD and other partners have supported Flint residents through the distribution of bottled water, replacing damaged hot water tanks,



providing water arrearage support through grants and offering other needed supportive services.

“On August 11, 2021, Judge Levey granted class certification on liability claims in ongoing litigation against Lockwood, Andrews, & Newnam (LAN) and Veolia North America (Veolia), alleging that each company failed to give appropriate professional advice, greatly adding to the widespread lead contamination of the water that flowed into Flint during the water crisis. On May 22, 2024, Judge Levey granted the final approval of the million-dollar settlement against LAN for failing to warn Flint

residents of the likelihood of lead contamination in their drinking water. Then on June 6, 2024, she granted preliminary approval of \$25 million settlement with Veolia, bringing the total settlement to date at \$659.25 million.” (Cohenmilstein.com).

The Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA) consists of the following communities: Genesee County Drain Commissioner, Lapeer County Drain Commissioner, Lapeer City, Sanilac County Drain Commissioner, and the City of Flint. The purpose of the authority is to provide and distribute raw water to the region of the State of Michigan commonly referred to as the I-69 corridor (Karegnondi.com/about).

Statistics and Data

Genesee County is a mix of urban and rural areas. However, most of the population resides in urban areas as depicted in the table below. The total population data shown below is based on the 2020 census which reflects a decline in the population for both Genesee County by -1.2 % and the City of Flint by -2.0% based on these estimates. We expect this pattern to continue over the next three years.

Urban and Rural Population

This indicator reports the percentage of population living in urban and rural areas as of 2020. Urban areas are identified using population density, count, and size thresholds. Urban areas also include territory with a high degree of impervious surface (development). Rural areas are all areas that are not urban.

Report Area	Total Population	Urban Population	Rural Population	Urban Population, Percent	Rural Population, Percent
Genesee County, MI	406,211	332,284	73,927	81.80%	18.20%
Michigan	10,077,331	7,404,258	2,673,073	73.47%	26.53%
United States	331,449,281	265,149,027	66,300,254	80.00%	20.00%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Decennial Census](#), 2020.

Note: The U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts indicate that the methodology differences may exist between data sources, and so estimates from different sources are not comparable.



Total Population Change, 2010-2020

The population decline has been occurring for some time in Genesee County as reflected below from 2010 to 2020. Current data projections by the U.S. Census indicate this trend is continuing. Should this population trend proceed, GCCARD will see a continual decline in its service area population. Although the population is declining the number of people in poverty remains higher than state and national averages, particularly in the City of Flint which has the greatest concentration of poverty within the county.

According to the United States Census Bureau Decennial Census, between 2010 and 2020 the population in the City of Flint fell by -21,189 persons, a change of -20.68%. A significant positive or negative shift in total population over time impacts healthcare providers and the utilization of community resources.

Report Area	Total Population, 2010 Census	Total Population, 2020 Census	Population Change, 2010-2020	Population Change, 2010-2020, Percent
Flint, MI	102,441	81,252	-21,189	-20.68%
Genesee County, MI	425,790	406,211	-19,579	-4.60%
Michigan	9,883,642	10,077,331	193,689	1.96%
United States	312,471,161	334,735,155	22,263,994	7.13%



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Decennial Census](#), 2020.

Total Population by Gender

The population that resides within GCCARD’s service area is predominantly female as shown below which is highest in all reported areas (US Census, ACS for 2018-2022). The data shown below represents a five-year projection and should this trend continue, we will see continued growth in the number of females in our county.

Report Area	Male	Female	Male, Percent	Female, Percent
Genesee County, MI	196,717	208,563	48.54%	51.46%
Michigan	4,993,696	5,064,225	49.65%	50.35%
United States	164,200,298	166,897,295	49.59%	50.41%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2018-22.

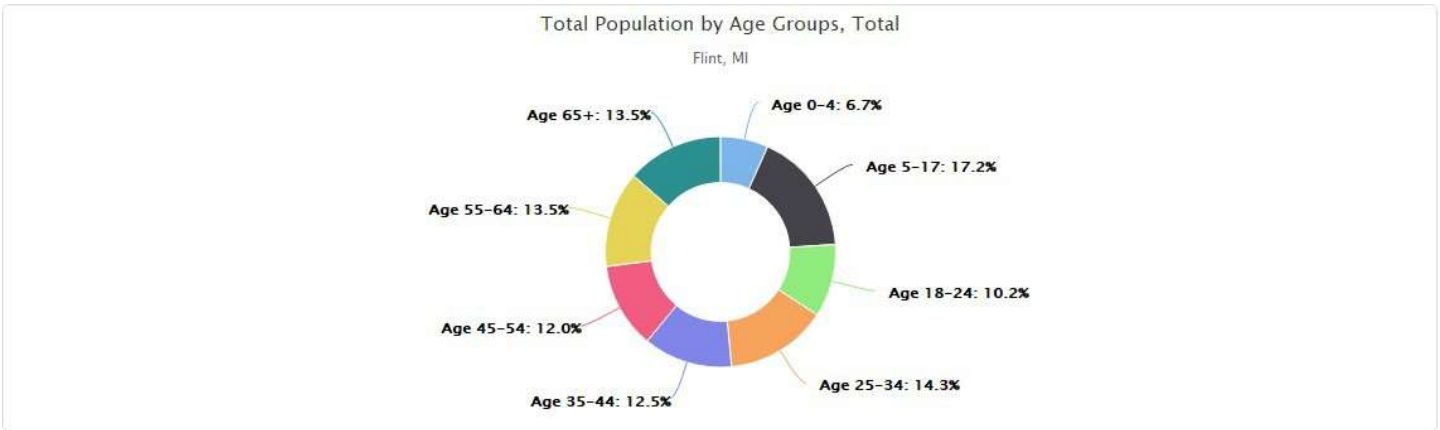
Total Population by Age Groups, Total

As shown on the following page, the total population is broken down into eight different groups. For the GCCARD service area we see the groups with the highest population as those individuals over 65 (73,019) and those falling within the (5-17) age group representing (67,301) individuals.



Report Area	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
Genesee County, MI	22,965	67,301	34,861	50,838	47,203	51,746	57,347	73,019
Michigan	552,803	1,596,661	970,018	1,307,008	1,196,758	1,250,963	1,396,885	1,786,825
United States	19,004,925	54,208,780	31,282,896	45,388,153	42,810,359	41,087,357	42,577,475	54,737,648

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2018-22.



The data shown above suggests that we can expect the demand for GCCARD’s services within our county over the coming years to increase as the population continues to age. This demand can also be expected in other service areas offered by GCCARD as the rise in inflation may limit the ability to afford needed weatherization, rising housing costs (taxes, utilities, etc.) and other essential services. The growth in the senior population may also cause a demand for other needs which GCCARD currently does not offer such as transportation, assisted living, medical services, and others. GCCARD will continue to advocate for the needs of the low-income population within our county to aid in bringing attention to their needs and ultimately aid in providing support.

The data above also reflects 22,965 individuals in the 0-4 age group which is also a population that is currently served by GCCARD through its Head Start and Early Head Start Program. Current data on the childcare crisis impacting Michigan by the Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan and the School House Connection in partnership with the Northcentral Michigan College’s Childcare Initiatives was reviewed as part of this needs assessment process. The report provided by these researchers found that the gap between what a parent can afford to pay, and the cost of quality childcare is one of the key drivers of Michigan’s undersized childcare workforce and the shortage of available childcare. The study noted that even before the Covid 19 pandemic Michigan had a problem in this area. In addition, it noted that childcare workers are not being paid a livable wage which causes many to seek other employment when they love working in childcare. The high number of children in this category as shown below has implications for GCCARD, which serves low-income families with children needing childcare. Customer satisfaction data from GCCARD Head Start and Early Head Start parents and guardians was reviewed as part of this needs assessment with a summary provided as part of this report in Appendix 3. In addition, the Annual Report provided by the GCCARD Head Start and Early Head Start Department along with input from staff on the GCCARD Needs Assessment Survey questionnaire was completed as part of this needs assessment process. The input was aggregated with that of other respondents and the Information gleaned from these sources are reflected in the key findings section of this report.



Total Population by Age Groups, Percent

This indicator reports the percentage of age groups in the population of the report area.

The percentage values could be interpreted as, for example, "Of the total population in the report area, the percentage of population age 0-4 is (value)."

Report Area	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
Genesee County, MI	5.67%	16.61%	8.60%	12.54%	11.65%	12.77%	14.15%	18.02%
Michigan	5.50%	15.87%	9.64%	12.99%	11.90%	12.44%	13.89%	17.77%
United States	5.74%	16.37%	9.45%	13.71%	12.93%	12.41%	12.86%	16.53%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2018-22.

Although services provided by GCCARD's Head Start and Early Head Start program are located throughout Genesee County, the need for these services by those in poverty may continue to grow. Should a demand continue for these services, it may be far greater than the program can serve which will mean going on a waiting list or being denied services because the capacity has been reached by the program. Long waits for affordable, quality childcare can potentially place a parent at risk of not being able to seek employment or go to work. Often childcare support enables a parent the ability to seek employment and/or to go to work and know that their child or children are cared for appropriately, safely, and affordably when utilizing GCCARD's support through Head Start and Early Head Start.

GCCARD's needs assessment staff responses reflect a variety of needs and recommendations to assist families in meeting basic needs. As one staff respondent indicated, "We need to assist families in meeting basic needs to enable them to develop skills for success." Meeting basic needs typically includes support such as food, clothing, housing, and transportation. "Only then can they focus on education and/or successful employment." Another response noted, "It would be great for caseworkers to link those in need with individualized services and resources based on their unique situation."

Researchers suggest that childcare needs are greatest in rural areas typically outside of urban communities. Although childcare centers may exist in urban areas more than in rural communities, they may not be affordable for the population in poverty and in some communities, they may not exist at all. The Poverty Solutions data suggest that "40% of Michigan's population live in areas considered childcare deserts." (Poverty.umich.edu, Childcare Initiative). In GCCARD's service area, childcare deserts may exist both in urban and rural communities within our county. The delivery of service method used by GCCARD appears to aid in addressing this problem and should be maintained.

GCCARD's Head Start and Early Head Start program challenges are similar to other service providers in the childcare industry in Michigan and throughout the U.S. Finding and keeping workers in the industry because the pay is low continues to be a primary struggle, but the demand for their services are great and essentially needed. To further support the challenges, the study by Poverty Solutions further indicated that "...a couple making Michigan's median income will spend 14% of their income on center-based childcare for an infant which amounts to double the 7% of the household's income considered affordable for childcare by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services."

Access - Head Start

Head Start is a program designed to help children from birth to age five who come from families at or below poverty level. The program's goal is to help children become ready for kindergarten while also providing the needed requirements to thrive, including health care and food support.



The following report reflects the number and rate of Head Start program facilities per 10,000 children under age 5. Head Start facility data is acquired from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 2022 Head Start locator. Population data is from the 2010 US Decennial Census. The report below for the City of Flint shows that it has a total of 26 Head Start programs with a rate of 99.40 per 10,000 children under 5 years old.

Report Area	Children Under Age 5	Total Head Start Programs	Head Start Programs, Rate (Per 10,000 Children Under Age 5)
Genesee County, MI	27,319	69	25.26
Michigan	596,286	875	14.67
United States	20,426,118	21,511	10.53

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, [HRSA - Administration for Children and Families, 2022](#).



GCCARD Head Start

Access - Preschool Enrollment (Age 3-4)

This indicator reports the percentage of the population age 3-4 that is enrolled in school. This indicator helps identify places where preschool opportunities are either abundant or lacking in the educational system.

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey, 2018-22](#).

Report Area	Population Age 3-4	Population Age 3-4 Enrolled in School	Population Age 3-4 Enrolled in School, Percent
Genesee County, MI	9,737	4,251	43.66%
Michigan	232,232	102,860	44.29%
United States	7,958,841	3,631,021	45.62%

Population Demographics

GCCARD serves a diverse population within Genesee County. However, individuals that are White and Black are the predominant racial groups within the county followed by individuals of multiple races as detailed in the charts below:



Total Population by Race Alone, Percent

Report Area	White	Black	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Races
Genesee County, MI	73.19%	19.56%	0.99%	0.31%	0.02%	0.91%	5.03%
Michigan	75.73%	13.56%	3.26%	0.45%	0.03%	1.57%	5.40%
United States	65.88%	12.47%	5.77%	0.84%	0.19%	6.05%	8.80%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2018-22.

As shown above, the racial composition for the GCCARD service area is predominantly Black (56.30%) within the City of Flint representing only 19.56% within the county. Whereas the county is predominantly White (73.19%) with people of multi-races (5.03%) ranking as the third highest population group in the county according to the U.S. Census as show below both within the City of Flint and Genesee County followed by the Hispanic (3.79%) population.

Hispanic Population

The estimated population that is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin represents 3.79% of the total report area population, which is less than the national rate of 18.65%. Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race.

Report Area	Total Population	Non-Hispanic Population	Percent Population Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino Population	Percent Population Hispanic or Latino
Genesee County, MI	405,280	389,924	96.21%	15,356	3.79%
Michigan	10,057,921	9,507,494	94.53%	550,427	5.47%
United States	331,097,593	269,341,727	81.35%	61,755,866	18.65%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2018-22.

Veteran Population

The veteran population within the GCCARD service area is higher than both the state and national averages. Genesee County is home to an estimated 22,192 veterans, representing 7.05% of the population as shown below. Veteran services within Genesee County are supported by numerous partners to address the varying needs which veterans face as they transition back into the community and make Genesee County home. GCCARD works through the Continuum of Care Network supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to prevent homelessness for those with special needs including veterans as well as supporting initiatives offered by the Genesee County Veterans Services Department.

This indicator reports the percentage of the population age 18 and older that served (even for a short time), but is not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or that served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. Of the 62,242 population of those age 18+ that live in the City of Flint area, 3,515 or 5.65% are veterans.



Report Area	Total Population Age 18+	Total Veterans	Veterans, Percent of Total Population
Genesee County, MI	314,945	22,192	7.05%
Michigan	7,903,494	498,788	6.31%
United States	256,649,167	17,038,807	6.64%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.

Veteran Population by Age Group, Total

This indicator reports the total veteran population by age group for each reported area.

Report Area	Age 18-34	Age 35-54	Age 55-64	Age 65-74	Age 75+
Genesee County, MI	1,458	4,903	4,455	6,535	4,841
Michigan	32,772	101,223	92,551	141,231	131,011
United States	1,466,430	4,049,416	3,120,173	4,256,020	4,146,768

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.

GCCARD serves low-income individuals and families and people in poverty.

Poverty is measured in the U.S. by comparing an individual or family's income to the federal poverty guidelines which is a set of poverty thresholds based on income and household size and the minimum amount of income needed to cover basic needs. People who fall within or below these thresholds are considered low-income (Institute for Research on Poverty). In 2011, the Census Bureau began to publish the Supplemental Poverty Measure which produces a different overall estimate of the number of people in poverty in the United States. The Supplemental Poverty Measure provides an improved picture of who is experiencing poverty by considering cash income plus in-kind government benefits (food stamps and housing subsidies) minus nondiscretionary expenses (taxes, medical out of pocket (MOOP) expenses, and work expenses). ***This threshold measure is not used by GCCARD staff for program eligibility requirements.***

Federal poverty guidelines are often referred to as the federal poverty level (FPL), which is issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in late January of each year. It varies by family size as shown for 2024 below and is used for the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia: with different sets for Alaska and Hawaii. ***GCCARD uses the federal poverty guidelines for most programs.***

The funding source for each program designates the eligibility criteria which must be adhered to by the service provider. GCCARD must always determine poverty status by using the eligibility guidelines required for each program established by the funding source. When an individual or family who is in need does not qualify based on the guidelines established, GCCARD collaborates with a wide array of community service providers within Genesee County as it seeks to meet the needs of those who are in crisis and offers referrals and support to families in need.

GCCARD is a member of the Continuum of Care for Genesee County and assists in reducing and preventing homelessness through a network of human service providers and housing agencies. Together the network of human service providers works to aid individuals and families in accessing programs and services throughout the county. In the past, GCCARD has participated in programs that have assisted the chronically homeless population in our



community through several Shelter Plus care programs that provided both housing and other supportive services to meet identified needs.

For programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, GCCARD often uses the area median household income limits. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services typically uses varying percentages of the federal poverty level to determine eligibility. For example, the Local Water Utility Affordability Program grant that was awarded to GCCARD in 2024 offers up to \$3,000 toward water and wastewater arrearages and requires federal poverty level eligibility at or below 200% of the federal poverty level for participation.

GCCARD’s needs assessment data from staff input suggests clear insight on many essential needs in which people in poverty are facing that live in Genesee County. GCCARD staff suggest that customers are confronting needs related to:

- clean water
- shelter
- food
- quality education
- housing repair assistance
- work opportunities
- finding affordable housing
- adequate transportation
- safe communities
- affordable childcare

Researchers substantiate that low-income people utilize most of their income on essential needs. According to the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Consumer Price Index (CPI) which measures price changes or inflation by consumers and its CPI_U report shows that consumers with different incomes have different experiences related to income and other factors. According to research conducted by Klick and Stockburger based on 2018 CPI_U income data, “the lowest income households spend a large amount of their income on household essentials whereas higher income households spend a large portion of their budget for travel, entertainment and clothing, cell phones, computers, and college education than lower income households. The amount spent on vehicles is typically double that of a lower income household. “(J. Klick and A. Stockburger, 2018).

2025 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/ household	Poverty guideline
1	\$15,650
2	21,150
3	26,650
4	32,150
5	37,650
6	43,150
7	48,650
8	54,150

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>



For families and households with more than 8 people, add \$5,380 for each additional person. (Federal Register/Vol.89, no.11/ Wednesday, January 17, 2024/ Notices). As noted in the Federal Register the chart above does not pertain to Alaska, Hawaii or Puerto Rico and other outlying jurisdictions.

Genesee County Poverty Rates:

Percent of Persons in Poverty by Area in Genesee County:

Atlas Twp. 3.4%		Grand Blanc 8.2%		Montrose Twp. 15.9%
Gaines Twp. 4.0%		Lake Fenton 9.2%		Burton 16.2%
Mundy Twp. 5.4%		Davison Twp. 9.5%		Davison 16.7%
Grand Blanc Twp. 6.6%		Clayton Twp. 9.6%		Genesee Twp. 17.7%
Fenton Twp. 6.7%		Flushing Twp. 10.8%		Flint Charter Twp. 18.2%
Flushing City 6.9%		Vienna Twp. 11.7%		Mount Morris 23.1%
Argentine Twp. 7.4%		Richfield Twp. 12.2%		Beecher 32.5%
Swartz Creek 7.7%		Thetford Twp. 13.4%		Flint 33.3 %

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/geneseecountymichigan,US/PST045222

Percent of persons in poverty:

Genesee County: 16.4%

Michigan: 13.4 %

United States: 11.5%

Other ways to consider need in the GCCARD Service Area:

ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, is considered a reliable data source that represents information on the growing number of families who are unable to afford housing, childcare, food, transportation, healthcare, and technology due to the rising cost of living and stagnated wages. The ALICE Household Survival Budget provides the bare minimum cost of household basics necessary to live and work in the current economy. In addition to the necessary items previously mentioned, it also includes other budgets such as the household stability budget. The ALICE Senior Survival Budget adjusts the survival budget to reflect reduced spending on food because seniors typically eat less than younger adults. It also reduces spending on transportation as seniors typically drive fewer miles for work and family responsibilities; and because health needs grow as they age it reflects higher costs for health care. For many seniors the ALICE report notes that their health care costs are increasing faster than the benefits offered by Medicare which places a financial strain on their budget to pay these increasing costs. ALICE data uses census data that is adjusted for households and county locations (2023 ALICE in the Crosscurrents: COVID and Financial Hardship in Michigan).

The 2023 ALICE report that was based on 2021 Federal Poverty Level data states that, "While only 13% of households in Michigan are reported to live at or below the poverty level, an additional 26% of households have incomes below the ALICE survival budget." When combining these two numbers, it noted that 39 % of households fell below the ALICE Survival Budget Threshold. The report explains that "the hourly wages and monthly incomes for both singles, couples with children, and seniors in 2021 are not keeping pace with inflation" (2023 ALICE in the Crosscurrents: Covid and Financial Hardship in Michigan).



The findings from the ALICE Report suggest that vulnerable households are those that fall within the ALICE threshold. It notes that households below the threshold are located across all demographic groups although disparity exists for the rate of hardships for racial and ethnic groups such as Blacks and Hispanics due to persistent racism, ageism, gender discrimination and geographic barriers. It noted that 59% of Blacks and 44% of Hispanics in Michigan were below the ALICE threshold in 2021 compared to 36% of White households. It also indicated that those under the age of 25 and over the age of 65 are faced with the highest rate of hardship. Furthermore, it states that single-parent families were more likely to be below the threshold established by ALICE than married-parent households or single/cohabitating households with children.

ALICE Household Survival Budget and the Federal Poverty Level, Michigan 2021

Family of Four	Federal Poverty Level (2021)	ALICE Threshold Survival Budget
Monthly total income	\$2,208	\$4,918
Annual total income	\$26,500	\$59,016
Percent of change 2019-2021	3%	8%
Single Adult		
Monthly total income	\$1,073	\$2,161
Annual total income	\$12,880	\$25,932
Percent of change 2019-2021	3%	12%

Source; Alice Household Survival Budget 2021, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE, HHS, Poverty guidelines for 2021, US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Alice report indicates the above percentage change is based on pre-tax income.

As shown above when comparing the federal poverty level to the ALICE threshold for 2021 we see a considerable difference in monthly and annual income needs for people and families in poverty. Vulnerable households are both people experiencing poverty and those above the poverty level. They may be people with or without jobs that are finding it difficult to meet basic needs without assistance. Although this comparison reflects data for 2021 in Michigan, these trends have persisted for vulnerable households within Genesee County and may be expected to continue for the next three to five years.

As a result of the rising cost of living, rising rental and housing costs, rising food costs, and other daily essentials for transportation these individuals are struggling to meet their daily needs and rely more and more on services such as those offered by GCCARD and other local partnering human service providers. These individuals and families may include but are not limited to ethnic, minority groups, youth under age 25, seniors, and female head of households with children.

The demand for GCCARD's services for essentials such as food has risen for individuals and families. In 2023 these numbers increased substantially and are expected to continue to grow in future years as the need continues to persist.

Food Deserts

As shown in the table below many people in the GCCARD service area live in "Food Desert" census tracts where they lack healthy food sources due to their income level, distance to supermarkets, or vehicle access. In Genesee County, there are 88,518 people that are living in food deserts. Most people associate food deserts exclusively with low-income areas but as shown in the map below this is not true. Food deserts are also within many urban areas where



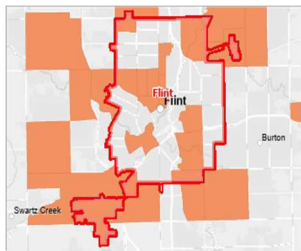
disinvestment has occurred, and supermarkets have left the area causing difficulty in accessing healthy affordable food, especially for families in poverty with limited access to transportation options. In many urban areas, convenience stores have served as a potential option when grocery stores are inaccessible. However, the prices for grocery items at these locations are typically unaffordable for low-income persons. The demand for food services, such as those offered by GCCARD, is needed throughout the county in both urban and rural areas.

Food Environment - Food Desert Census Tracts

This indicator reports the number of neighborhoods in the report area that are within food deserts. The USDA Food Access Research Atlas defines a food desert as any neighborhood that lacks healthy food sources due to income level, distance to supermarkets, or vehicle access.

Report Area	Total Population (2010)	Food Desert Census Tracts	Other Census Tracts	Food Desert Population	Other Population
Genesee County, MI	425,790	31	99	88,518	337,272
Michigan	9,883,640	339	2,417	1,131,629	8,752,011
United States	308,745,538	9,293	63,238	39,074,974	269,670,564

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, [USDA - Food Access Research Atlas](#), 2019.



Food Desert Census Tracts, 1 Mi. / 10 Mi. by Tract, USDA - FARA 2019

- Food Desert
- Not a Food Desert
- No Data
- Flint, MI



TEFAP Emergency Food box distribution



As shown below, the percentage of households that obtain their income from public assistance in Genesee County is above the national and state average.

Income - Public Assistance Income

This indicator reports the percentage of households receiving public assistance income. Public assistance income includes general assistance and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Separate payments received for hospital or other medical care (vendor payments) are excluded. This does not include Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or noncash benefits such as Food Stamps.

Report Area	Total Households	Households with Public Assistance Income	Percent Households with Public Assistance Income
Genesee County, MI	166,060	5,071	3.05%
Michigan	4,009,253	111,642	2.78%
United States	125,736,353	3,339,152	2.66%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.

Average Public Assistance Dollars Received

Report Area	Total Households Receiving Public Assistance Income	Aggregate Public Assistance Dollars Received	Average Public Assistance Received (in USD)
Genesee County, MI	5,071	\$18,103,800	\$3,570
Michigan	111,642	\$430,341,100	\$3,854
United States	3,339,152	\$14,167,234,100	\$4,242

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.

Adult Literacy

Adult Literacy data outlined in the chart below, reflects that 16.5% of the population within Genesee County fall within the “Lower Credible Interval” level according to the National Center for Education Statistics. It indicates that people within this category may struggle with basic vocabulary or even be functionally illiterate. It shows that 23.5 % of the population within the county fall within the “Upper Credible Interval” level which it notes they typically can read and understand text well enough to perform small tasks but might have difficulty drawing inferences from multiple forms of text. This data appears to support other educational data that reflects, within Genesee County and particularly within the City of Flint we see high graduation levels with lower numbers and percentages of people going on to higher education. This also may be reflected in lower wage jobs and overall lower household incomes due to literacy.

Within Genesee County, literacy has been recognized as a major concern. The Flint and Genesee State of Literacy Report 2023 focuses on literacy for life and establishes a roadmap of “Cradle-to-Career Literacy Solutions” which includes, (1) School Readiness, (2) School Success, (3) Post-Secondary Success and (4) Gainful Employment. The report looked at data for Genesee County from 2015-2020 for a variety of indicators. The

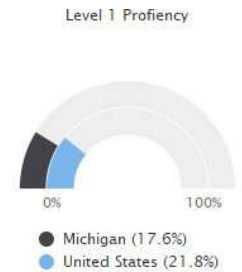


report notes the number of Genesee County families with children under 5 living in poverty declined by more than 12%. Despite the decline, significant racial and geographic disparities persist. In 2020, poverty among Black/African American (51%) families with children under 5 exceeded that of white families (23%) by 125%, while poverty among Hispanic families (39%) exceeded that of white families by 71%.” The report further notes that, “Race, geography, and ethnicity contribute to disparity outcomes for children aged 0-5 in Flint and Genesee County.” The report also indicates that the data for the 0-5 age group is important because researchers (Meloy, Gardner and Darling-Hammond 2019) have found that, “quality preschool education leads to improved school readiness and academic performance for students as they progress through elementary school.”

Literacy data published by the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIACC) breaks adult literacy into three different "Levels". Those reported as Level 1 are at risk for being able to understand printed material. Those at the upper end of Level 1 can read and understand the text well enough to be able to perform small tasks but might have difficulty understanding or drawing inferences from multiple forms of text. Those at the lower end may struggle with basic vocabulary or even be functionally illiterate.

The percentage at or below Level 1 for literacy in the report area is estimated at 20%, with a 95% probability that the actual (true, unknown) percentage is between 16.5% and 23.5%.

Report Area	Population Ages 16-74	Total At or Below Level 1	At or Below Level 1	Total Lower Credible Interval	Lower Credible Interval	Total Upper Credible Interval	Upper Credible Interval
Genesee County, MI	298,560	59,712	20%	49,262	16.5%	70,162	23.5%
Michigan	7,318,080	1,285,218	17.6%	1,028,026	14%	1,542,046	21.1%
United States	235,567,157	51,401,095	21.8%	42,569,858	18.1%	60,378,678	25.6%



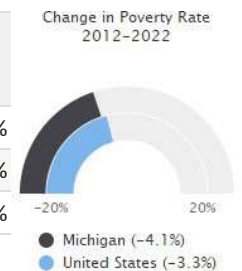
Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, [NCES - Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies](#). 2017.

Poverty Rate Change

The poverty rate change in Genesee County from 2012 to 2022 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area decreased by -4.9%, compared to a national change of -3.3%.

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2012	Poverty Rate 2012	Persons in Poverty 2022	Poverty Rate 2022	Change in Poverty Rate 2012-2022
Genesee County, MI	88,023	21.3%	65,211	16.4%	-4.9%
Michigan	1,677,776	17.4%	1,306,663	13.3%	-4.1%
United States	48,760,123	15.9%	40,951,625	12.6%	-3.3%



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#). 2022.

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.



Poverty - Population Below 125% FPL

In Genesee County, 21.10% or 84,468 individuals are living in households with income below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

Note: The total population measurements for poverty reports are lower than population totals for some other indicators, as poverty data collection does not include people in group quarters.

Report Area	Population, Total	Population with Income at or Below 125% FPL	Population with Income at or Below 125% FPL, Percent
Genesee County, MI	400,350	84,468	21.10%
Michigan	9,845,242	1,672,930	16.99%
United States	323,275,448	53,120,911	16.43%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22.

Family Poverty Rate 125% (FPL)

Within Genesee County there is 15.17% of the population at 125% of the FPL.

Report Area	Family Households, Total	Families with Income at or Below 125% FPL	Families with Income at or Below 125% FPL, Percent
Genesee County, MI	104,126	15,800	15.17%
Michigan	2,527,912	298,032	11.79%
United States	81,432,908	9,746,828	11.97%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22.

Population in Poverty by Gender

This indicator reports the population in poverty in the report area by gender.

The female population within Flint and Genesee County reflect that more women are in poverty in both these areas than males as shown below.

Report Area	Male	Female	Male, Percent	Female, Percent
Flint, MI	12,957	13,682	33.07%	33.53%
Genesee County, MI	29,216	35,840	15.07%	17.35%
Michigan	582,547	710,617	11.96%	14.29%
United States	18,109,332	22,412,252	11.34%	13.70%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22.



Family Poverty Rate by Family Type

Most recent data by the U. S. Census according to estimates using the American Community Survey 5- year projections are shown below for the percentage of households in poverty by household type. Of the households in poverty, female headed households represented 62.5%, compared to 12.1% and 25.5% of households headed by males and married couples, respectively. Within Genesee County 11.4 % of the households are in poverty which is higher than the state and national rates of 8.8%.

Report Area	Poverty Rate All Types	Percent of Poverty Married Couples	Percent of Poverty Male Householder	Percent of Poverty Female Householder
Genesee County, MI	11.4%	25.5%	12.1%	62.5%
Michigan	8.8%	35.0%	11.6%	53.5%
United States	8.8%	37.3%	11.0%	51.8%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.

Population in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone

This indicator reports the population in poverty in the report area by ethnicity alone. *Of all the Hispanic population within Genesee County, the proportion living in households with income below the federal poverty level is (16.85%)."*

Report Area	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino, Percent	Not Hispanic or Latino, Percent
Genesee County, MI	2,552	62,504	16.85%	16.23%
Michigan	102,360	1,190,804	19.02%	12.79%
United States	10,447,540	30,074,044	17.24%	11.45%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.

Population in Poverty by Race Alone, Percent

This indicator reports the percentage of population in poverty in the report area by race alone.

Of all the white population within Genesee County area, the proportion living in households with income below the federal poverty level is (12.59%).

	White	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Genesee County, MI	12.59%	29.66%	17.87%	17.75%	30.26%	14.08%	17.31%
Michigan	10.54%	26.10%	20.41%	10.68%	22.18%	19.46%	16.54%
United States	10.09%	21.46%	22.60%	10.12%	16.97%	18.57%	14.76%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.



Households in Poverty

The number and percentage of households in poverty are shown in the report area. In 2022, it is estimated that there were 26,073 households, or 15.7%, living in poverty within the report area.

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty	Percent Households in Poverty
Genesee County, MI	166,060	26,073	15.7%
Michigan	4,009,253	516,677	12.9%
United States	125,736,353	15,616,265	12.4%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22.

** Please note:

The data shown is based on the American Community Survey estimates that are based on five-year estimates from 2018-2022 which are slightly different than the U.S. Census Bureau Quick Fact data shown on page 26 in this document for household in poverty which are based on 1 year estimate profiles.

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status

The table below shows that according to the American Community Survey (ACS), 31,312 households (18.86%) received SNAP payments during 2018-2022 within Genesee County. During this same period there were 11,712 households with income levels below the poverty level that were not receiving SNAP payments.

Report Area	Households Receiving SNAP Total	Households Receiving SNAP Percent	Households Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty	Households Not Receiving SNAP Total	Households Not Receiving SNAP Percent	Households Not Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households Not Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty
Genesee County, MI	31,312	18.86%	14,361	16,951	134,748	81.14%	11,712	123,036
Michigan	508,976	12.70%	233,531	275,445	3,500,277	87.30%	283,146	3,217,131
United States	14,486,880	11.52%	6,332,769	8,154,111	111,249,473	88.48%	9,283,496	101,965,977

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22.

Poverty - Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch

Free or reduced-price lunches are served to qualifying students in families with income under 185 percent (reduced price) or under 130 percent (free lunch) of the US federal poverty threshold as part of the federal National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Out of 59,942 total public-school students in Genesee County , 36,455 were eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program in the latest report year. This represents 60.8% of public-school students, which is higher than the state average of 51.1%.



Report Area	Total Students	Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch	Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch, Percent
Genesee County, MI	59,942	36,455	60.8%
Michigan	1,397,111	714,387	51.1%
United States	40,249,650	19,533,765	51.7%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
 Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, [NCES - Common Core of Data, 2021-2022](#).

Seniors in Poverty

Population and poverty estimate for persons ages 65 and up are shown below. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data, an average of 9.3% of people lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year within Genesee County. This is higher than the state’s percentage of 9.0% but less than the national average of 10.0% as shown below.

Report Area	Ages 65 and Up Total Population	Ages 65 and Up In Poverty	Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate
Genesee County, MI	71,873	6,709	9.3%
Michigan	1,747,423	156,622	9.0%
United States	53,352,363	5,309,452	10.0%

Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved in the report area and helps schools and businesses to understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce training or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 years old and is an estimated average for the period from 2018 to 2022.

For the selected area, 14.8% have at least a college bachelor’s degree, while 31.4% stopped their formal educational attainment after high school.

Report Area	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Genesee County, MI	9.0%	31.4%	25.9%	10.9%	14.8%	8.0%
Michigan	8.3%	28.4%	22.5%	9.7%	18.9%	12.2%
United States	10.9%	26.4%	19.7%	8.7%	20.9%	13.4%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey, 2018-22](#).



Income Levels

Two common measures of income are Median Household Income and Per Capita Income based on American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Both measures are shown for the report area below.

Report Area	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
Genesee County, MI	\$58,594	\$33,561.79
Michigan	\$68,505	\$37,929.31
United States	\$75,149	\$41,261.47

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2018-22.

Housing Costs - Cost Burden (30%)

This indicator reports the percentage of the households where housing costs are 30% or more of total household income. This indicator provides information on the cost of monthly housing expenses for owners and renters. The information offers a measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. The data also serves to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of people at different economic levels. Of the 166,060 total households in Genesee County, 47,461 or 28.58% of the population live in cost burdened households.

Report Area	Total Households	Cost-Burdened Households	Cost-Burdened Households, Percent
Genesee County, MI	166,060	47,461	28.58%
Michigan	4,009,253	1,046,988	26.11%
United States	125,736,353	38,363,931	30.51%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2018-22.

Housing Costs - Cost Burden, Severe (50%)

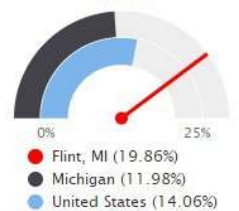
This indicator reports the percentage of the households where housing costs are 50% or more total household income. This indicator provides information on the cost of monthly housing expenses for owners and renters. The information offers a measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. The data also serves to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of people at different economic levels.

Report Area	Total Households	Severely Burdened Households	Severely Burdened Households, Percent
Flint, MI	33,854	6,722	19.86%
Genesee County, MI	166,060	21,818	13.14%
Michigan	4,009,253	480,344	11.98%
United States	125,736,353	17,679,129	14.06%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2018-22.

Percentage of Households where Housing Costs Exceed 50% of Income





Housing Quality - Substandard Housing

This indicator reports the number and percentage of owner- and renter-occupied housing units having at least one of the following conditions: 1) lacking complete plumbing facilities, 2) lacking complete kitchen facilities, 3) with 1 or more occupants per room, 4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30%, and 5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30%. Selected conditions provide information in assessing the quality of the housing inventory and its occupants. This data is used to easily identify homes where the quality of living and housing can be considered substandard. Of the 166,060 total occupied housing units in Genesee County, 47,834 or 28.81% have one or more substandard conditions which is higher than the county, state, and national average.

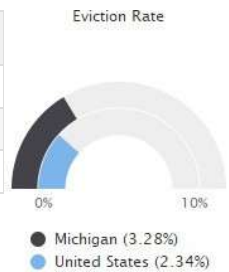
Report Area	Total Occupied Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions	Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions, Percent
Genesee County, MI	166,060	47,834	28.81%
Michigan	4,009,253	1,057,678	26.38%
United States	125,736,353	39,858,044	31.70%

Evictions

This indicator reports information about formal evictions based on court records from 48 states and the District of Columbia, compiled by the Eviction Lab. The number of evictions and eviction filings within the report area is shown below. The "filing rate" is the ratio of the number of evictions filed in an area over the number of renters-occupied homes in that area. An "eviction rate" is the subset of those homes that received an eviction judgment in which renters were ordered to leave. For the year 2016, the Eviction Lab reports that, of 50,776 rental homes in Genesee County area, there were 7,859 eviction filings, for an eviction filing rate of 15.48%. A total of 1,640 of the eviction filings ended in an eviction, for an eviction rate of 3.23%.

Note: Not all counties have data that has been provided. Indicator data does not include information about "informal evictions", or those that happen outside of the courtroom.

Report Area	Renter Occupied Households	Eviction Filings	Evictions	Eviction Filing Rate	Eviction Rate
Genesee County, MI	50,776	7,859	1,640	15.48%	3.23%
Michigan	1,037,704	138,169	34,016	13.31%	3.28%
United States	38,372,860	2,350,042	898,479	6.12%	2.34%



Note: Indicator data for the report location is calculated using [small area estimation method](#). This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source: [Eviction Lab](#), 2016.

Current Unemployment

Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for Genesee County is in the report area provided in the table below. Overall, the report area experienced an average 5.0% unemployment rate in March 2024.

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Genesee County, MI	185,652	176,458	9,194	5.0%
Michigan	5,056,057	4,856,503	199,554	3.9%
United States	169,171,236	162,498,983	6,672,254	3.9%



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

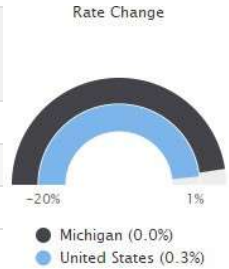
Data Source: US Department of Labor, [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), 2024 - March.



Unemployment Change

Unemployment changes within the report area from March 2023 to March 2024 are shown in the chart below. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this one-year period fell from 5.5% to 5.0% in Genesee County.

Report Area	Unemployment March 2023	Unemployment March 2024	Unemployment Rate March 2023	Unemployment Rate March 2024	Rate Change
Genesee County, MI	9,964	9,194	5.5%	5.0%	-0.5%
Michigan	197,727	199,554	4.0%	3.9%	0.0%
United States	6,096,127	6,672,254	3.6%	3.9%	0.3%



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Low Income and Low Food Access

This indicator reports the percentage of the low-income population with low food access. Low food access is defined as living more than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store. Data are from the April 2021 [Food Access Research Atlas](#) dataset. This indicator is relevant because it highlights populations and geographies facing food insecurity. The total low-income population in the report area with low food access is 48,599 according to the USDA, Economic Research Service “Food Access Research Atlas” for 2019 which is 29.39% of the low-income population had low food access as shown below.

Report Area	Total Population	Low Income Population	Low Income Population with Low Food Access	Percent Low Income Population with Low Food Access
Genesee County, MI	425,790	165,337	48,599	29.39%
Michigan	9,883,640	3,191,469	630,369	19.75%
United States	308,745,538	97,055,825	18,834,033	19.41%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, [USDA - Food Access Research Atlas](#). 2019.

Population with Any Disability

This indicator reports the percentage of the total civilian non-institutionalized population with a disability. In Genesee County there are 71,155 persons with a disability representing 17.66% based on 2022 population estimates as shown below. This indicator is relevant because disabled individuals may require targeted services and outreach by providers.

Report Area	Total Population (For Whom Disability Status Is Determined)	Population with a Disability	Population with a Disability, Percent
Genesee County, MI	403,025	71,155	17.66%
Michigan	9,949,793	1,403,198	14.10%
United States	326,147,510	41,941,456	12.86%



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey, 2018-22](#).

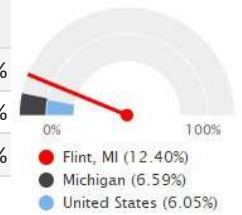
Built Environment - Households with No Computer

This indicator reports the percentage of households who don't own or use any types of computers, including desktop or laptop, smartphone, tablet or other portable wireless computer, and some other type of computer, based on the 2018-2022 American Community Survey estimates. Of the 166,060 total households in Genesee County, 12,482 or 7.52% are without a computer.

Note: The ACS 2018-22 questions about internet/computer usage are not asked for the group quarters population, so data do not include people living in housing such as dorms, prisons, nursing homes, etc.

Report Area	Total Households	Households with No Computer	Households with No Computer, Percent
Genesee County, MI	166,060	12,482	7.52%
Michigan	4,009,253	264,258	6.59%
United States	125,736,353	7,603,749	6.05%

Percentage of Households with No Computer



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey, 2018-22](#).

Internet Usage of Population with a Computer, Total

This indicator reports the Internet usage of household population with a computer, including Internet access with dial-up alone, with a broadband subscription, and without Internet subscription, based on the 2018-2022 American Community Survey estimates.

Report Area	Total Population	Population with Any Computer	Population with Dial-up Alone	Population with A Broadband Subscription	Population without An Internet Subscription
Genesee County, MI	400,283	382,773	411	359,550	22,812
Michigan	9,840,766	9,447,030	14,050	8,936,459	496,521
United States	322,994,302	310,986,833	432,346	293,957,068	16,597,419

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey, 2018-22](#).

Built Environment - Broadband Access

This indicator reports the percentage of population with access to high-speed internet. Data are based on the reported service area of providers offering download speeds of 25 MBPS or more and upload speeds of 3 MBPS or more. These data represent both wireline and fixed/terrestrial wireless internet providers. Cellular internet providers are not included.

Report Area	Total Number of Broadband Serviceable Locations	Access to DL Speeds >= 25MBPS and UL Speeds >= 3 MBPS	Access to DL Speeds >= 100MBPS and UL Speeds >= 20 MBPS
Genesee County, MI	169,503	98.40%	97.44%
Michigan	4,076,669	92.20%	90.07%
United States	115,342,228	93.82%	91.18%



Violent Crime - Total

Violent crime includes homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Within the following report areas. The 2015-2017 three-year total of reported violent crimes was 8,163, which equates to an annual rate of 641.00 crimes per 100,000 people, higher than the statewide rate of 446.30.

Report Area	Total Population	Violent Crimes, 3-year Total	Violent Crimes, Annual Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)
Genesee County, MI	424,479	8,163	641.00
Michigan	9,974,761	133,568	446.30
United States	366,886,849	4,579,031	416.00

Note: Indicator data for the report location is calculated using [small area estimation method](#). This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, [FBI Uniform Crime Reports](#). Additional analysis by the [National Archive of Criminal Justice Data](#). Accessed via the [Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research](#), 2015-2017.

Social Vulnerability Index

The degree to which a community exhibits certain social conditions, including high poverty, low percentage of vehicle access, or crowded households, may affect that community's ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss in the event of disaster and other emergencies. These factors describe a community's social vulnerability.

The social vulnerability index is a measure of the degree of social vulnerability in counties and neighborhoods across the United States, where a higher score indicates higher vulnerability. Genesee County has a social vulnerability index score of 0.68, which is greater than the state average of 0.45.

Report Area	Total Population	Socioeconomic Theme Score	Household Composition Theme Score	Minority Status Theme Score	Housing & Transportation Theme Score	Social Vulnerability Index Score
Genesee County, MI	406,770	0.68	0.71	0.66	0.48	0.68
Michigan	9,973,907	0.43	0.42	0.57	0.50	0.45
United States	326,569,308	0.54	0.48	0.71	0.62	0.58



GCCARD's Needs Assessment Results:

Key Findings on the Causes of Poverty for people in poverty in Genesee County

The respondents to the GCCARD Needs Assessment survey were asked to share their views on the causes of poverty for people living in poverty within Genesee County. The categories listed below are groupings based on the input provided from those in poverty as well as community leaders, community residents and members of neighborhood associations, block clubs, the GCCARD tripartite Advisory Board members, and youth from the Genesee County Youth Commission.

The lists below are not ranked in any specific order but were categorized for GCCARD staff to better analyze the causes of poverty that relate to one another. This grouping may also serve to better determine strategies and approaches that may be feasible to support the identified needs. Since systemic racism was viewed as extending into many different areas it is included in the categories where it was referenced which does not mean it may be excluded in other areas not referenced.

Category A:

Single moms

Teen Pregnancies

Generational Poverty

Lifestyle choices/detrimental decisions

Lack of resources for school-aged children e.g. clothing.

Affordable Childcare

Category B:

Poor quality education

The lack of a high school diploma

The lack of employment

The lack of livable wages

Racism

Category C:

Mental health issues

The lack of mental health care

The lack of physical health care

Racism

Category D:

Affordable housing

Poor housing conditions

Neighborhood blight- 1-structural blight,
2-non-structural blight

Older housing stock- Problems with wells
contaminants, septic systems, coverts and drains,
lead pipes.

Food costs and availability (Food deserts in
neighborhoods)

The lack of available transportation

Adequate transportation

Safe communities

Racism



Summary of the key findings on the causes of poverty within GCCARD Service Area:

(The summary of key findings on the causes of poverty is based on respondent input listed in categories A-D above in addition to input from community residents living in low-income areas of Flint.)

1. Single moms
2. Teen Pregnancies/ Teen moms
3. Education
4. Generational Poverty
5. Racism
6. Mental and physical health care
7. Employment
8. Housing

Key findings on the conditions that people in poverty in Genesee County are facing:

1. Emotionally traumatized. This may be caused by unaddressed mental health issues and a variety of compounding negative situations and crises (water crisis, COVID 19 pandemic, unemployment or low wage employment, unaffordable housing and limited affordable housing, closed neighborhood public schools, poor performing schools, children with poor performance in school, challenges accessing transportation and unable to afford private transportation, food insecurity, limited income and other challenges)
2. Need for affordable housing and homeownership
3. Unaddressed health issues both physical and mental
4. Living in “Food Deserts” and inflation causing food costs to rise but their income does not
5. Transportation challenges
6. Blighted neighborhoods and the physical, mental, and social consequences for children, youth, and families
7. Need for affordable childcare
8. Need and desire to live in safe neighborhoods
9. Lack of internet access

Key Findings on organizational needs identified by respondents:

A. Community Improvements

- Establish GCCARD’s name in all of Genesee County
- Hot water heaters
- Household fans
- Roofing
- Home Improvements projects for seniors and low-income adults and families
- Job opportunities
- Property tax relief for those with arrearages
- Water payment relief for those in arrearages

B. Organizational Improvements

- GCCARD should work on improving the coordination of services
- GCCARD should work on obtaining additional vehicles for the nutrition services department
- Repair and replace vehicles used for food delivery



- Employee training is needed
- Improve bathroom facilities at off-site locations

C. Focus Economic assets in the following areas:

- Affordable housing
- Housing counseling
- Parenting
- Breastfeeding classes and day care support
- Job training
- Resume building training
- Computer training and support
- Adequate transportation
- Safe communities
- Affordable childcare

D. Expanding partnerships to increase support for low-income people in the following areas:

- Establish contacts with resources in all communities to assist and support low-income people.
- School systems
- Colleges
- Housing developments
- Hospitals
- HUD
- Habitat for Humanity

E. Self-sufficiency initiatives should focus on the following areas:

- Life skill training
- Cooking classes
- Nutrition skills
- Budget management skills
- Financial savings skills and strategies

F. Family support is needed in these areas:

- Aid families in meeting their basic needs-food, clothing, housing, and transportation etc.
- Provide individualized services and resources based on the customer's unique situation which should be linked to resources identified by the caseworker
- Provide support for special needs such as lice and bed bug treatment and removal
- Bill payment assistance
- Food assistance
- Home repair assistance
- Lawn care assistance
- Visiting seniors



SUMMARY

Those experiencing poverty in our county are facing compounding issues that are multifaceted. The extensive number of problems people in poverty are confronting are attributed to mental and physical health issues that too often may go untreated and unresolved. The impact of generational poverty is perceived as a major problem for many families. When it continues it has devastating impacts on those trying to find ways to improve their conditions. Many individuals and families in poverty have discovered, without support from human service providers that aid them in problem solving and finding new approaches to resolve the various issues they are confronting, they may not break the cycle of poverty. Data reflects that African Americans within Genesee County are extremely impacted by poverty in addition to single parent households and children under 18, as well as those persons 65 and older. Support is particularly needed for these groups to assist them in breaking the cycle of poverty.

This Community Needs Assessment reflects a variety of needs, causes, and conditions which people in poverty are facing in Genesee County that are supported by primary and secondary data, U.S. Census and a variety of periodicals, reports, and anecdotal comments. GCCARD serves as a helping hand for those in poverty when the compounding problems are beyond what an individual or family can address alone, and they seek support through our organization. GCCARD's Hotline is open to receive calls and refer individuals to needed services. GCCARD works with a variety of local, state, and federal departments to generate needed resources that can aid in reducing major issues and preventing homelessness. Although the population within Genesee County is depopulating, the problems confronting people in poverty are not decreasing and may be compounded by one crisis after another that is beyond their control. GCCARD staff recognize these challenges as they work with others and collectively advocate for resources to meet existing and unmet needs. These needs and challenges often require the support and resources of not only GCCARD but other local human service providers in our county. GCCARD will continue to identify new partners and resources as GCCARD's staff aids in providing support in critical areas that enables individuals and families to work on addressing their problems and to become self-sufficient.

The low-income population within our community is addressing a variety of issues as identified in this needs assessment. Some of the needs identified may not be in an area that GCCARD can address but through GCCARD's intake process, families are referred to other human service agencies in our county. Problems such as housing deterioration, neighborhood decline, mental and physical health challenges are examples of issues confronting the disadvantaged population in our county which are not areas that GCCARD can impact directly, but indirectly through guiding an individual and family to other resources that exist. A list of partnering organizations, agencies and community services is listed in the appendix as a resource.

Issues impacting those experiencing poverty were exacerbated by the Flint Water Crisis and compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. We anticipate environmental crises will cause other unpredictable negative impacts in the future which they are unprepared to resolve without support and assistance. Researchers suggest the mental, physical, and emotional toll that poverty has on individuals and families may continue to worsen and the compounding influences of other unavoidable crises may result in symptoms similar to untreated Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This can be lessened with proper health interventions and support groups. Many people in poverty go without appropriate medical and mental health treatment, which may be the case for those in poverty in Genesee County. Consequently, communication methods by people in distress can present itself in many extreme ways when seeking aid for a variety of needs. GCCARD staff regularly experience this and are equipped to address these issues with sensitivity and compassion toward all who are in need. GCCARD will continue to work to provide quality services, needed resources, and be the open door and helping hand for struggling citizens within our county as they take steps to improve their lives and that of their families.



Summary of the causes of poverty within GCCARD Service Area identified through this community needs assessment process:

- Single moms
- Teen Pregnancies/ Teen moms
- Education
- Generational Poverty
- Racism
- Mental and physical health care
- Employment not paying a livable wage or poor education causing limited employment opportunities
- Housing unaffordable in desirable areas and undesirable areas are unsafe, and unmaintained
- Inadequate transportation and the transportation system

Key findings on the conditions that people in poverty in Genesee County are facing which were identified through this community needs assessment process:

- Emotionally traumatized. This may be caused by unaddressed mental health issues and a variety of compounding negative situations and crises (water crisis, COVID 19 pandemic, unemployment or low wage employment, unaffordable housing and limited affordable housing, closed neighborhood public schools, poor performing schools, and children with poor performance in school, challenges accessing transportation and being unable to afford private transportation, food insecurity, limited income, and other challenges)
- Need for affordable housing and homeownership
- Unaddressed health issues both physical and mental
- Living in “Food Deserts” and inflation causing food costs to rise but their income is not
- Transportation challenges
- Blighted neighborhoods and the physical, mental, and social consequences for children, youth, and families
- Need for affordable childcare
- Need and desire to live in safe neighborhoods
- Overpriced housing with minimal maintenance of the structure
- Inadequate transportation options
- High crime due to excessive illegal ownership of guns and rampant drug use/sales
- Lack of schools/ education
- Affordable quality food remains a primary need
- Impoverished residents in homes face difficulty affording maintenance of their homes: plumbing, toilets, bath area, roofs, windows, step/porch to entry, exterior and interior paint
- Comprehensive bus routes
- Grocery stores- walkable, complete food supply
- Limitations on the choices that they can make for themselves, their families, and their communities
- Not getting help
- Health and mental health care
- No utilities, insurance



- No jobs for returning citizens
- Lack of a living wage job
- Lack of law enforcement

Key findings on the top conditions that impact people in poverty the most in the GCCARD Service area are:

- Difficulty in finding and securing affordable housing where they are paying no more than 30% of their income for rent
- Difficulty in paying their mortgage or rent
- Difficulty in paying for childcare or finding affordable childcare
- Difficulty in securing employment due to lack of employment history, limited education, low literacy
- Difficulty in paying their utility and water bills
- Paying for senior care
- Need health and mental health care
- Need transportation and comprehensive bus routes linking to jobs and services
- Need grocery stores that provide higher quality food supplies in a walkable location
- Need support for insurance and/or lower cost insurance for vehicles and homes
- Need education and training on a variety of topics that support self-sufficiency: credit, budgeting, resume writing, job interviewing skills, home maintenance, home ownership, etc.



GCCARD Needs Assessment

2025-2028

APPENDIX 1.0

Demographic Data of the GCCARD Service Area using Tables, Maps, Charts, and Graphs

Listing of Tables, Maps, Figures, Chart and Graphs:	Page Number:
Map: Genesee County Map- GCCARD Service Area	12
Table: Urban and Rural Population	15A
Table: Population Change 2010-2020	16A
Table: Population by Gender	16B
Table and Graph: Total Population by Age Groups, Total	16-17
Table: Total Population by Age Group, Percent	18
Table: Access Head Start	19
Table: Access Preschool Enrollment (Age 3-4)	20A
Table and figure: Total Population by Race Alone, Percent	20B
Table: Hispanic Population	21B
Table: Veteran Population	21-22
Table: Veteran Population by Age Group, Total	22B
Chart: 2025 Poverty Guidelines	24
Chart: ALICE Household Survival Budget and the Federal Poverty Level, Michigan 2021	26
Table and Map: Food Environment-Food Desert Census Tracts	27
Table: Income – Public Assistance Income	28A
Table: Average Public Assistance Dollars Received	28B
Table: Adult Literacy	29
Table: Poverty Rate Change	30A
Table: Population Below 125% FPL	30C
Table: Family Poverty Rate 125% (FPL)	31A
Table: Population in Poverty by Gender	31C
Table: Families in Poverty by Family Type	32A
Table and Graph: Population in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone	32C



Table and Graph: Population in Poverty by Race Alone	33B
Table and Graph: Households in Poverty	34A
Table: Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status	34B
Table and Map: Poverty- Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Priced Lunch	35A
Table: Seniors in Poverty	37C
Table: Educational Attainment Overview	38A
Table: Income Levels	38B
Table: Housing Costs – Cost Burden (30%)	39A
Table: Cost-Burdened Households by Tenure, Percent	39B
Table: Housing Costs- Cost Burden, Severe (50%)	39C
Table: Housing Quality- Substandard Housing	40C
Table: Evictions	41A
Table: Current Unemployment	41B
Table: Unemployment Change	41C
Table: Low Income and Low Food Access	42A
Table: Population with Any Disability	42B
Table: Built Environment -Households with No Computer	43B
Table: Internet Usage of Population with a Computer, Total	43C
Table: Built Environment-Broadband Access	44A
Table: Violent Crime- Total	44B
Table: Social Vulnerability Index	45



APPENDIX: 2.0

Needs Assessment Survey Question

followed by

Aggregated Responses

1. **In your perspective, what are the top three to five causes of poverty within Genesee County?**
 - There is a direct correlation between single moms with multiple babies and being in poverty. Also, single moms without a high school diploma with multiple babies and not being able to get a job because you don't have an education, or you have multiple other barriers that come with being a single mom.
 - Having babies in your teenage years is a major cause of poverty for young girls.
 - Lack of a high school education or higher education.
 - Generational poverty in which you have grown up in poverty and have a child early and you are also in poverty.
 - Racism. Racism is very far reaching. These are examples of issues and concerns that our agency has witnessed and fought hard to ensure equal treatment is extended to all regardless of their race. For example:
 - Racism directly impacts your pay which typically means if you are Black your pay will be lower than a person that is white with the same educational background and qualifications
 - If you are a woman and Black, you may also be impacted by both racism and sexism
 - Racism is impacting access to jobs for people who are Black
 - Typically, those who are Black with or without an education are not able to secure higher paying jobs at the higher levels of an organization or company
In addition, they may be the last hired and first fired
 - Racism also impacts the amount of grace or leniency a person with a racial and ethnic background may get for the same infraction on the job
The Black person may get something written into their personnel record for the same issue in which the White person committed but nothing is written into their personnel file. Therefore, the work record of the Black person would have a derogatory infraction that may prevent future promotions and the person that is White who may have done the same or similar thing can move up within the organization or company where the other person is unable to do so
 - Racism is played out in so many ways such as leniency for those that are white and making those that are not White suffer
 - Racism is also used as power by Whites who may be in other professions and fields such as the medical field. For example, a person that is Black may not get the same medical treatment or medication that can reduce their symptoms whereas, a person that is White is prescribed a medicine that does relieve or reduce their symptoms- This is in both physical health and mental health practices



- If a person is Black and is also in poverty, they may have more difficulties than a white person and the staff support needed to relieve the problem is more time consuming and requires staying on top of the issue just to ensure they get the basic services they need whereas, the person who is White is often more quickly helped
- Racism is used as a form of control, and it is being used within Genesee County in employment- This is evident when you see very few organizations and corporations with Blacks at high leadership levels -Most organizations and businesses have very few high-level positions that have Black people in those positions. It is very rare in this community to see a Black person at a high leadership level
- Lack of mental and physical health care - Real care- If people are not diagnosed properly then they have ongoing problems and typically are unable to work - This is often linked to racism
- Access to Jobs
- Employment- Those in poverty need a job or a source of income because of the cost of living -The wage rates are low for many, and they cannot sustain a viable lifestyle for the amount they are paid
- Education- Some college students and those with degrees are finding themselves in debt and with low wages causing them to leave this community
 - In lower grades it is hard to get teachers in classrooms because of low wages
 - Some teachers who stay are staying because they are committed to the community although they could move if they choose to
- Housing- The cost of housing is unaffordable. Many of the affordable housing is in undesirable neighborhoods such as Flint, Mt. Morris, and Beecher
- Young people looking for a home in areas like Burton are finding the cost higher than expected for the size of the house - Sometimes they find the size of the house is small both inside the city of Flint and outside too- If you have children, the small house is not desired
- Families with larger family sizes are having more difficulty in finding houses that they can afford
- Generational Poverty- Families where children have grown up in poverty and they have not learned how to do anything else
- Lack of education and training especially in the K-12 grades
- Lack of employment or adequate income is a result of lack of education and training

2. What do you think are the conditions that low-income people or people in poverty in Genesee County are facing?

- Traumatized
- Mental anguish
- Low self-esteem
- Feeling less than others
- Feeling I'm not good enough
- Believing... I don't deserve to challenge my landlord because I don't feel worthy
- Being conditioned to believe the lie that they are, "not good enough"



- Low self-esteem translates into the person in poverty willing to live in any type of house and not advocating for themselves for a better place because they are afraid to do so because the consequences for them and their family could be or get worse. Therefore, they will not speak out if windows and doors are broken, faucets are not working, rodents are in the home, etc. because they have been beaten down so much through poverty, they are just glad to have a place to live
- Cost of food
- Homeownership
- Health- lack of health care due to cost and not being able to pay for their medical insurance deductible. When they lose their health coverage, they are unable to maintain their dental which may cause other concerns if their teeth are not maintained and the loss of medical for women during pregnancy will mean poor prenatal care
- They often may make lifestyle choices that may be detrimental to their health such as paying for food or going to the dentist
- Clothing. Having adequate clothing for their children, going to school is a major concern for low-income families. Some schools requiring uniforms is a good thing because underprivileged children will not look different, and will feel better. However, underprivileged children may not have proper hygiene because of poverty which may impact their learning ability and how they are treated by others
- Transportation for those in our county that are living in poverty. Since the county was built around automobiles you need transportation and reliable transportation to get to places like grocery stores. If you are in poverty but living in areas of the county like Grand Blanc and Flushing, which are more affluent areas of the county, you might still have a transportation problem getting to the grocery store. We still have poverty and families that don't have adequate transportation to get to places like grocery stores which are not accessible
- Blight in the City of Flint is a real problem. It presents itself in the behavior of those who are living in those areas in many ways such as anger, frustration, depression, mental health issues and poor health to name a few. In areas of Flint blight is spreading faster than the community can address the problem. When they (local government programs or local non-profit organizations) can work on the problem the house is too far gone for rehabilitation. Often when these properties get to the Land Bank, they are ready for demolition because nothing more can be done to save the house
- It would be nice to have a city and county-wide rehabilitation program. Currently, the City of Flint does not have a rehabilitation program. Non-profits such as Metro Housing, Habitat for Humanity and Made Institute are the only entities doing rehab that come to mind
- Of the conditions mentioned Blight is the most pressing problem for people in poverty because it brings down the morale of people. For example, school kids that live in blighted areas must see the blight and that tells them people don't care. When they get to school, and their school has a leaky roof with containers throughout to catch the water it tells them people don't care
- We are seeing two types of blight: 1- Structural blight and 2- Non-structural blight. Structural blights are open and/or deteriorating buildings, open and/or deteriorating schools. Burned buildings and houses that remain standing, open for trespassers to reside in



them and are eye sores. We see open buildings that are housing squatters and animals. The news has reported that squatters have caused fires to try to keep warm from the elements

- Non-structural blight includes broken and overgrown sidewalks that residents and school-aged students must use. Streets with potholes, and are poorly maintained, streets with rights-of-way littered with trash and debris. Poorly lit streets or broken or not working street lighting and poorly maintained parks and right-aways
- Many low-income families live in old housing stock, especially in the out-county area. Older age housing stock in Genesee County means that there are potential problems low-income homeowners might be dealing with especially those living outside the city where they have wells with arsenic contaminants, PFAS, outdated septic systems, covert water retention problems as well as lead pipes in their homes

3. Of the following conditions, which do you believe impact individuals, and families the most that live in our county?

Example: Rank each based on the level of difficulty you believe people in poverty are confronting based on the following scale:

High difficulty = 3 Moderate difficulty = 2 Low difficulty = 1

1. ___ Difficulty in finding and securing affordable housing where they are paying no more than 30% of their income for rent
2. ___ Difficulty in paying their mortgage or rent
3. ___ Difficulty in paying their utility and water bills
4. ___ Difficulty in securing and maintaining employment
5. ___ Difficulty in securing employment due to a history of incarceration
6. ___ Difficulty in securing employment due to lack of employment history
7. ___ Difficulty in maintaining employment due to transportation issues
8. ___ Difficulty in maintaining employment due to substance abuse
9. ___ Difficulty in maintaining employment due to not having a permanent job
10. ___ Other
 - i. Paying Taxes _____
 - ii. Paying for Health Care and/or related services _____
 - iii. Paying for childcare _____
 - iv. Paying for Senior Care _____

Based on the responses the top conditions that impact people in poverty the most are:

- Difficulty in finding and securing affordable housing where they are paying no more than 30% of their income for rent
- Difficulty in paying their mortgage or rent
- Paying for childcare
- Difficulty in securing employment due to lack of employment history
- Difficulty in paying their utility and water bills
- Paying for senior care



Additional Comments:

“Society keeps people down who have been incarcerated. They must push themselves to overcome the fact that they were in jail. Some may resort to a lifetime of crime. Some may not have seen anything different. “

“Employment may not support adequate wages and people are working two to three jobs just to meet their basic needs. “

“Your beginning does not have to necessitate your ending.”

4. Rank from high (3) to low (1) those groups who you believe have the highest to lowest problem with hunger in our county.

Who do you think is faced with issues of hunger the most in our community?

_____ 1. Low-income families (in poverty/ at or below the federal poverty limits

_____ 2. Children

_____ 3. Seniors

_____ 4. Youth leaving foster care.

_____ 5. Adults leaving penal institutions or jails.

_____ Other (State) 6. _____

_____ Other (State) 7. _____

The top responses included the following:

1. Seniors
2. Low-income families in poverty at or below the federal poverty level
3. Children
4. Youth leaving foster care

Other comments: Runaway youth, homeless and unhoused, women in shelters. In addition, those in shelters are typically required to leave during the day and this is very hard for women with young children.

5. What services are you aware of that GCCARD offers to aid those in poverty?

- Help with consumer energy bills, water bills, and sometimes rent and mortgage payments. Along with feeding people, especially seniors. Formerly they also helped with taxes, down payment assistance, back rent, and prevention services for the homeless. They have also aided the CoC in HMIS and programming.
- I worked with GCCARD taking food to senior buildings. For some seniors, I believe that is the only way many are staying alive. I don't know but that is what I believe.
- Home delivered meals, nutrition, commodity foods monthly, the Ensure liquid meals for seniors, and the Neighborhood Services Center providing support for utilities, heating, and Walk for Warmth fundraiser.

**6. How have you worked with GCCARD in the past?**

- Homeless Prevention and the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the HMIS
- Food delivered meals and clerical
- Assisting others in getting services through GCCARD

7. What are the services you think GCCARD should offer in the next five years?

- Help Seniors with back taxes and property taxes
- Pay for mental health appointments for people in poverty
- Assist pregnant moms, and low-income families and individuals that are below the survival budget produced by ALICE data to get extra income through a supplemental income allowance that could be made available through county funds
- No comments
- More education around housing
- Training on the different services GCCARD offers and training in a way that GCCARD is trying to put themselves out of a job so in the future the person can help themselves
- Collaborate more with programs in education and training and housing programs such as Habitat
- Offer education around topics such as home repair, changing an outlet, leaky pipes, patching a hole in the wall, how to change a lock etc.
- Work with all agencies doing the same type of work
- Establish the GCCARD name in all of Genesee County

8. Are there services you think GCCARD should offer for people that are low-income?

- Bullets one, two and three above
- No comments
- Offer education around topics such as home repair, changing an outlet, leaky pipes, patching a hole in the wall, how to change a lock etc
- Training in the different services GCCARD offer and train in a way that GCCARD is trying to put themselves out of a job so in the future the person can help themselves

9. Of the needs you have identified, and your knowledge of the community, are there services you think are missing in our community to support people in poverty?

- Provide more support for job readiness i.e., Interviewing, dressing, communication skills in the workplace, behavior, mindfulness to reduce stress and interpersonal communication skills.
- No comment. However, one good example of an organization that identified a need and worked to address an unmet need was Mother's Intercessory working with children whose parents are incarcerated.
- Men who are experiencing domestic violence are having difficulty in finding a place that will house them. The places that exist for domestic violence typically are geared toward women. The YWCA's program is thought of as being just for women, but victims are men too and the YWCA will service them if they can.



- More help is needed for children aging out of foster care. The assistance provided should begin far before they age out of the system.
- Affordable housing
- Adequate transportation
- Safe communities
- Affordable childcare

10. Based on the services you are aware of to aid persons in poverty, which do you think are the most beneficial in alleviating poverty?

- Unsure, cannot respond at this time
- Education... must get in their minds that with the lack of an education you don't have many choices or opportunities
- Training and education
- "How to..." programs that teach skills and offer a way to earn an income. "How to..." programs that can lead to employment working for someone our themselves

11. What self-sufficiency programs would you recommend aiding people in poverty?

- Understanding credit
- Understand how to save money based on your budget and income
- Simple strategies on paying bills and getting out of debt
- Homebuyer education because buying a home may be more affordable for some families than paying rent - But training and follow-up is needed
- Education- Start with children. Start at home. Children are not listening. Schools are having trouble with children growing up in poverty. They may be disrupting class for others who want to learn. If the child is a mess at home, then the child will be a mess at school.
- Mott College has programs that help entering students succeed. It has trade classes that will help a person earn higher incomes with a company or to start their own business.

12. The GCCARD Needs Assessment in 2022 identified the following community needs for people in poverty in Genesee County. Please rank each of them from 1 to 3 based on the following scale.

- 1- Not a significant need
- 2- Currently being addressed adequately but still an important concern
- 3- Still a critical need that should be addressed now and in the future

1. ____ Internet Access
2. ____ Inadequate Child Nutrition
3. ____ Financial Literacy
4. ____ Employment
5. ____ Transportation



Of the five areas listed above the respondents to the needs assessment indicated that:

- Financial Literacy
- Transportation
- Internet Access

These issues were identified as critical needs and should be addressed now and in the future by GCCARD with internet access being recognized also as both a critical need and an important concern for low-income citizens throughout Genesee County.

13. Please provide your comments on how you think GCCARD has done in addressing these needs.

- GCCARD has been helpful in keeping people from becoming homeless by helping them stay in their own home, by aiding them when they are in need in paying utilities, rent, back taxes and other issues.
- These various supportive programs help them stay in their own home, which is easier than leaving, trying to find a new place to live, coming up with all the deposits to turn on utilities, water etc. as well as pay first and last month's rent and the security deposit can be difficult for low-income persons.
- It would be great if GCCARD could assist with the first month's rent and help with rent deposits for people needing help securing a place to live.

14. Should the areas you identified as being a critical need above remain a priority need for GCCARD over the next three years?

1. Yes X
 2. No
- Especially internet access. During the pandemic it showed us how important internet access was and who was connected and who was disconnected. In the outer county of Genesee, in areas like Goodrich and Otisville and other rural parts of our county internet access is needed. In some of these areas the land line is connected through wi-fi and the need to have internet is critical especially in emergency situations. When people had to work from home, children had to get educated from home, limited connections to places and things that we once took for granted changed and we should learn from that situation.
 - Other concerns in our community are that we are dealing with systemic issues and issues of racism



Additional Community Residents' comments submitted from United Flint Neighborhood Association members for the GCCARD Community Needs Assessment 2025-2028

Causes and Conditions of Poverty:

- Unable to locate safe quality housing
- Inadequate transportation options
- Minimal employment opportunities
- Education and education opportunities are missing
- Cost of living increases: housing, food, utilities, water/sewer, electricity, gas
- Employment skills that do not match remaining businesses
- Limited information transfer- folks don't know jobs are available
- Poor communication
- Newspapers and other sources don't carry adequate information
- Genesee County has a car-dependent transportation systems and land use policies that force residents to choose between either shouldering the cost burden of car ownership or limiting their access to employment, education, healthcare, and other daily needs. Even where the community is doing a good job of offering low-cost housing, the cost of living is driven up by the surrounding car-dependent infrastructure, land uses and economic development decisions
- Streets that need to be repaired
- Roofs on houses that need fixing
- Generational poverty
- It's too difficult to access programs available for the truly impoverished
- Predatory housing, employment, and services
- Not letting inmates do community service- Zero leadership
- Lead awareness that destroyed properties
- No skilled trade or on-the-job training with criteria being too strict
- No jobs
- Lack of living wages, education, and criminal activity
- Lack of education - Lack of treatment for mental health issues -Lack of enforcement of existing laws
- Unsafe water
- Overpriced housing with minimal maintenance of the structure
- Inadequate transportation options
- High crime due to excessive illegal ownership of guns
- Rampant drug use and sales
- Homeownership
- Little support to help low-income households maintain their homes
- Affordable quality food remains a primary need
- Impoverished residents face difficulty finding housing and being able to afford to remain home unless they are already homeless
- Impoverished residents in homes face difficulty affording maintenance of their homes: plumbing, toilets, bath area, roofs, windows, steps, porch to entry, exterior and interior paint
- Cost of heat, grocery store access
- Vacancies around them- unsafe for kids outdoors



- Transportation-cross-city access- must go into the center city and out for everything on buses
- Limitations on the choices that they can make for themselves, their families, and their communities
Limited ability to choose where to live or work, both because of the cost of housing but also because of the few spots in the county where one can live near a school, grocery store, park, voting place etc.
- Need help getting service when it's called in
- Choices between food and housing vs medical and mental care. Inability to work due to high cost of quality childcare. Hygiene due to the cost of water being a barrier to employment
- Being lied to by the government
- Flushing toilets, running water and utilities
- Squatters
- Filthy environment
- Crime
- Health
- Despair
- Food and housing insecurity
- Fear of criminals that are not being dealt with by law enforcement

According to community residents, the causes and conditions previously mentioned by community residents the following impact people in poverty the most in Genesee County.

- Overpriced housing with minimal maintenance of the structure
- Inadequate transportation options
- High crime due to excessive illegal ownership of guns and rampant drug use/sales
- Lack of schools/ education
- Affordable quality food remains a primary need
- Impoverished residents in homes face difficulty affording maintenance of their homes: plumbing, toilets, bath area, roofs, windows, step/porch to entry, exterior and interior paint
- Comprehensive bus routes
- Grocery stores- walkable, complete food supply
- Limitations on the choices that they can make for themselves, their families, and their communities
- Not getting help
- Health and mental health care
- No utilities, insurance
- No returning citizens jobs
- Lack of a living wage job
- Lack of law enforcement

Other comments:

- I witness overwhelming poverty where I live in the City of Flint. Some residents are in a better place than others, but I see too many that are less than one paycheck from homelessness



- It seems support for employment goes toward restaurants in downtown Flint (which has been torn up a LONG time) with poor parking options and industries which have proven to be limited in vision- we need to continue to develop more diversity in our economic base
- Need full-service access to stores/ no vegetables, fruit, small packages
- Problem- distance to food supply- travel to bus/ absence of cross-city routes
- Housing assistance and with utility bill deposit or assistance with overdue bills and shut offs
- Need childcare assistance
- Need food assistance and with home repairs and heating bills
- Need to also support seniors with major repairs and referrals to other agencies who can help
- Need food distribution programs
- Need to home the homeless
- Need home repairs
- Need food support for seniors and home repair support- There is not enough support for the elderly
- Need heating assistance/ installation of energy efficient furnaces and info on resources
- Young adults need mental health assistance
- Need emergency housing
- There is a need for additional emergency housing for law enforcement to use for individuals suffering from mental crisis.
- People in poverty areas should be protected by the same level of law enforcement as an affluent neighborhood
- Provide work release for inmates
- Improve verbal and written communication
- Access: practical education, good job ads in the umpteen newspaper kiosks
- Access: current information
- Access: free bus passes to and from job application sites
- Access: buses going to employment sites
- Housing and rent assistance
- Transportation assistance
- Childcare assistance
- Food assistance
- Need information on “How to purchase a home and keep it/ maintain it by budgeting financially and learning ways to get assistance with maintenance issues
- Education preparation
- Technology skills
- Vocational skills
- Improve access to Wi-Fi
- Improve access to paid training toward certificates of proficiency
- Improve access to paid childcare for trades certificates training
- Jobs with the support needed- easy transportation, childcare, preparation for many entry level jobs and information
- Scattered sites services on all sides of the city
- Planning on transportation



Appendix: 3.0

Customer Satisfaction Data

Customer Satisfaction Reports and the Annual Report are available on request. The following are key summaries of the information provided by GCCARD's departments in 2023.

Customer Satisfaction Data Summaries by Departments

Head Start and Early Head Start Customer Satisfaction Surveys (2023):

Summary of Results:

GCCARD's Head Start and Early Head Start Parents/respondents were surveyed for the 2022-2023 enrollment period which consisted of 110 responses reflecting an 88.2 % response rate. The survey method used was through telephone contacts representing 93.6% of respondents that shared their view on the questions asked. Questions primarily related to various aspects of the program. The report included both qualitative and quantitative data regarding classrooms, cleanliness, upkeep and availability of toys and supplies, overall atmosphere, education, family service, mental health, nutrition, health, staff friendliness and helpfulness, results achieved, information on other services, parent policy council information/involvement and interest. Qualitative responses confirm that parents overwhelmingly love the program and find it extremely beneficial for their children. The primary one-word descriptions for the program were "awesome", and "amazing" with 88.2% of the 110 parents/respondents stating that their overall impression of the program was that it is "excellent". Most respondents became aware of the program through 591-KIDS (24.5%), followed by friends/relatives/neighbors (19.1%) and the Early On program (14.5%). Most of the respondents (98.2%) indicated that they or a family member did read a book to their child that was provided by Head Start. In addition, 100% indicated that they were invited to participate in their child's education by completing at-home activities that were provided or suggested by the program. The Head Start staff is doing an excellent job in providing information to families in a wide range of areas to address their needs such holiday help, budgeting, clothing, and food referrals according to 91.8% of respondents. As well as educating them on community resources through participation in parent meetings, field trips, and workshops, 92.7% stated the information obtained was useful.

Key recommendations expressed by parents included the following:

- Increase classroom budget and give the teachers a good raise
- Busing or a better playground would be nice
- Consider an awning over the building entrance
- The field trips should be organized and grouped together as a class so that the kids can see their friends
- Not being allowed to volunteer in the classroom or come in at all unless it was a scheduled Parent Teacher Conference (PTC) is disappointing for some parents
- Only one respondent wrote that miscommunication and some staff may be rude
- The program needs a bigger budget for classroom needs (cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper etc.)

Communities served by the program: Atherton, Beecher, Bendle, Clio, Davison, Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Genesee ISD, Grand Blanc, Kearsley, Lake Fenton, Lakeville, Linden, Montrose, Mott Community College, Mt Morris, Swartz Creek, Westwood Heights.



Neighborhood Service Center: Customer Satisfaction Surveys (2023):

Summary of Results:

The Neighborhood Service Center received ten surveys from customers for the year 2023. Most of the customers that receive services through the Neighborhood Service Center first contacted the Emergency Service Hot Line prior to receiving an appointment for services. Customer satisfaction surveys are always presented as an option for individuals and families receiving primarily emergency services to prevent homelessness. Therefore, completing the surveys is requested by staff but provided as an option at the customer's discretion and is never contingent upon receiving services. Typically, responses regarding services rendered have been verbal following the receipt of services where the majority of the customers were very pleased with the services rendered. However, customers who are denied services may be discouraged and verbally hostile at times if they are denied services due typically for not meeting income eligibility requirements stipulated by the funding sources that are available for the emergency. The needs in which services are provided have typically included water, utilities, taxes, rent and others such as referral to other local service providers. The level of services offered per household per specific area of service is based on the grant source and the household's income and household size. Based on the input provided, 80% of the respondents indicated their overall experience with GCCARD Neighborhood Service Center staff was very good. The average wait time when people call the hot line is 3 to 5 minutes. All respondents that completed the surveys (100%) felt the staff members that assisted them throughout their experience were friendly, knowledgeable, patient, and courteous. The predominant method of contact is in person and by phone with most respondents indicating that they came in person and called prior to receiving services.

Home Delivered Meals/ Meals on Wheels (HDM/MOW): Customer Satisfaction Surveys (2023):

Summary of Results:

The Home Delivered Meals Program administered a total of 960 customer surveys during the 2023 program year and received a response rate of 35% consisting of 340 returned surveys. The questions related to food focused on food quality, taste, dietary needs, menu variety, and portion size. Customers were also asked to respond to service questions regarding their treatment by the Meals on Wheels staff which focused on dependability/arrival time, problem resolution by staff and driver customer service qualities: (polite, friendly, and helpful). Customers were also asked questions related to their perception of donating, donation participation and donation method. The final question focused on the customer's perspective regarding social interaction and food security that was or was not improved as result of the interaction with the HDM/MOW driver via the program. Respondents were also given an opportunity to provide comments and recommendations that could be utilized to improve the program.

Based on the responses most indicated the portion size (62.3%) is about the right size and the menu offers enough variety (59.3%). The highest number of responses came from respondents indicating that they almost always like the quality of the food. An overwhelming number of respondents 95.4% indicated that the driver is polite and (94.01 %) indicated they are treated with respect by staff of the Meals on Wheels service. Most indicated a sense of confidence (83.49%) that their meals will arrive daily. Survey questions regarding donations demonstrate that most customers have a clear understanding of the donation policy with 124 respondents (48.35%) indicating that they can donate if they choose to and in any amount that they choose. The same number of respondents (124 respondents (48.25%)) indicated that they are not required to donate to receive meals. Only 9 respondents indicated that they must donate to receive meals, reflecting only 3.5% did not understand the donation policy. In summary the program is viewed positively by participants. Respondents believe the food is of high quality, tasty and healthy with a good variety of menu selection and served at the proper portion size.

**Key recommendations for the HDM/MOW from customer's qualitative responses:**

- Improve the bland vegetables
- Maintain the great cold salads
- Provide more breakfast food
- Provide more white chicken chili
- Provide more fresh fruit
- Provide better frozen meals

Congregate Meals: Customer Satisfaction Surveys**Summary of Responses:**

In 2023 the Congregate Meals Program distributed 317 surveys and received a response rate of 58.04%. Respondents included seniors attending senior centers, community centers and churches that participate in the program. Survey participants were asked questions related to food, service, donations, their personal perceptions, and were asked to provide any comments that would aid in improving the program. Based on the responses 88.45% stated the menu offered enough variety and most of the respondents thought the quality of the food was good.

The perception of the program services by respondents suggests most have a positive view (68%) of services rendered. Most believe that the menu provided has enough variety with 88.4% agreeing that it does. The meal sites are clean and accessible by 97.56% of the respondents and they also agreed that they are treated with dignity and respect by the staff. With regards to donations, almost half the respondents (49.60%) stated that they believe they can donate if they choose to do so and, in any amount, they choose to give. However, 26.40% thought they must donate to receive meals, which was higher than the percentage of respondents (24%) that said they believe they were not required to donate to receive meals. Seniors that participated in the congregate meals program agreed by 94% that because of their interaction with other seniors and site staff, they believed they improved their social contacts as well as food security and consequently they lessened their feelings of being alone and hungry.

Key Suggestions by Respondents:

Comments provided by respondents suggested that they desired more salads, food with less spice, less red meat, less chicken, and desired options such as Philly and steak, liver and onions and bigger portion sizes.



APPENDIX 4.0

GCCARD 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF DATA

ALL GCCARD EMPLOYEES

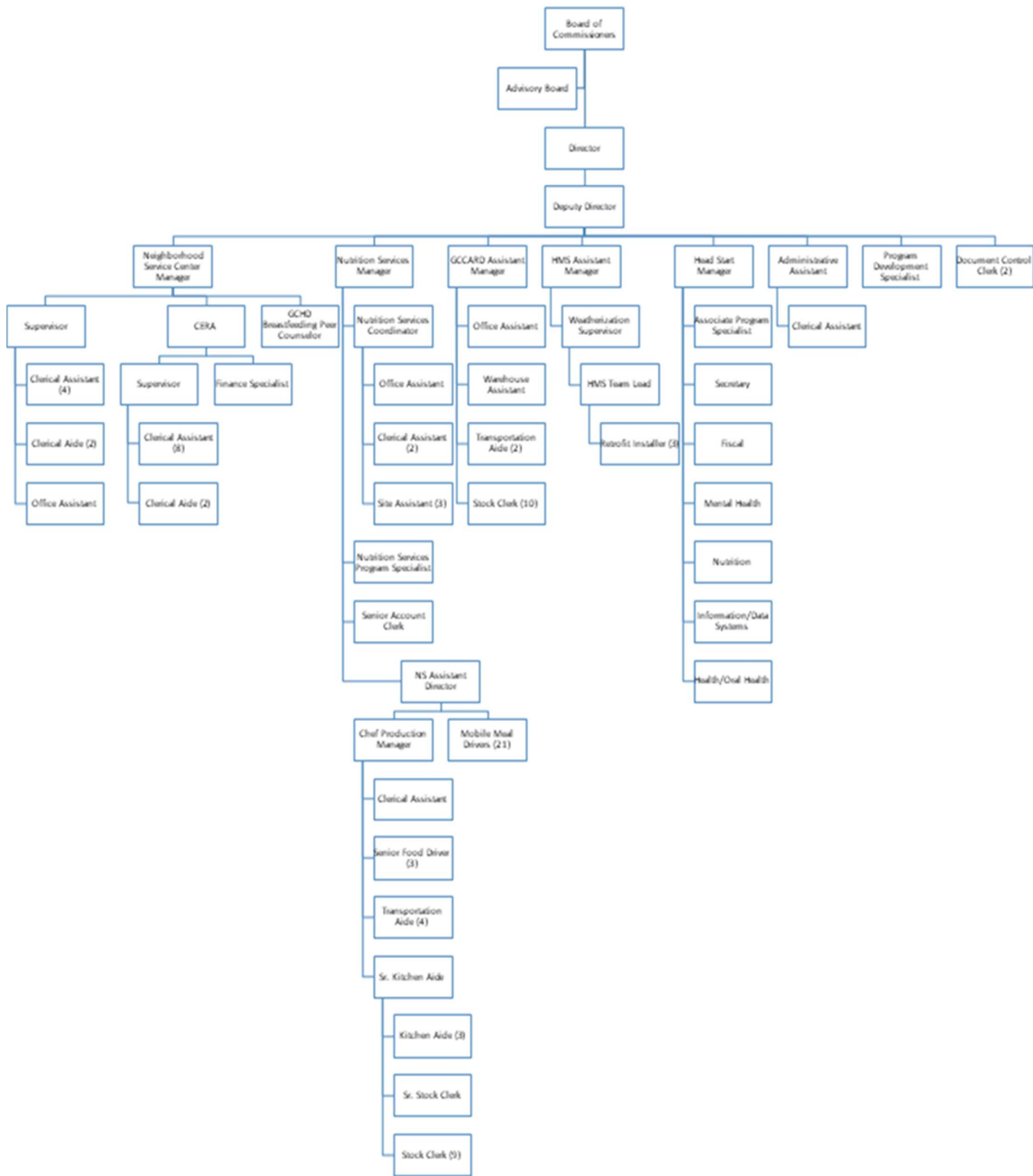
TOTAL	77	
MALE	30	39%
FEMALE	47	61%
BLACK	56	73%
WHITE	17	22%
TWO OR MORE	1	1%
NO ANSWER	1	1%
UNKNOWN	2	3%

MANAGERIAL EMPLOYEES

TOTAL	9	
MALE	3	33%
FEMALE	6	67%
BLACK	7	78%
WHITE	1	11%
TWO OR MORE	1	11%



GCCARD 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





APPENDIX 5.0

COMMUNITY RESOURCES - PHONE NUMBERS and/or LINKS

American Red Cross	1-810-232-1401
Career Alliance	1-810-233-5987
Catholic Charities	1-810-232-9950
Catholic Charities Soup Kitchen	1-810-785-6911
Chamber of Commerce	1-810-600-1404
City of Flint Customer Service Line	1-810-766-7015
City of Flint Police Department	1-810-237-6800
Consumers Energy	1-800-477-5050
Crossover Outreach	1-810-234-2479
Court Street Village (Downtown Rental Placement)	1-810-767-0603
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)	1-810-760-7300
Disability Network	1-810-742-1800
Flint Housing Commission	1-810-736-3050
First Presbyterian Church	1-810-234-8673
Metro Community Development	1-810-767-4622
Pregnancy Resource Center	1-810-767-1262
Flint Registry	1-833-463-5468
Food Bank of Eastern Michigan	1-810-239-4441
Friend of the Court – McCree Building	1-810-257-3300
Genesee County Clerk	
Administrative Office	1-810-257-3225
Election Division	1-810-257-3283
Legal Division	1-810-257-3220
Register of Deeds	1-810-257-3060
GCCARD Mobile Meals	1-810-235-3567
GCCARD NSC Hotline	1-810-768-4675
GCCARD Senior Foods Kitchen	1-810-232-6891
Genesee County Health Department	1-810-257-3612
Genesee County Human Resources	1-810-257-3034
Fax	1-810-768-7097
Genesee County Land Bank	1-810-257-3088
Genesee County Treasurer	1-810-257-3054
Tax Information	1-877-805-2856
Genesee Health Systems (Mental Health)	1-810-257-3705
Greater Flint Outreach	1-810-767-4064
GST Michigan Works	1-810-233-5974



Habitat for Humanity	1-810-766-9089
Legal Services of Eastern Michigan/Legal Aid	1-810-234-2621
Love, Inc (Diapers, Child Items and More)	1-810-235-4990
MSU Extension	1-810-244-8500
One Stop Housing Resource Center	1-810-600-4525
Salvation Army	1-810-232-2196
Shelter of Flint	1-810-239-5433
Social Security Administration	1-877-748-9766
St. Luke's N.E.W. Life Center	1-810-239-8710
St. Vincent DePaul	1-810-234-5381
Unemployment	1-866-500-0017
United Way of Genesee County	1-810-232-8121
Valley Area Agency on Aging	1-810-239-7671
Veterans Services	1-810-257-3068
WIC (Health Dept)	1-810-237-4537
Work Force Education Center (MCC)	1-810-232-2555
YWCA	1-810-238-7621

Links to additional resources that aid in supporting self-sufficiency

High School Equivalency Testing:

<http://www.michigan.gov/wda/0,5303,7-304--382907--,00.html>

Talent Connect:

<http://www.mitalent.org/>

Military Info:

<http://www.goarmy.com/> <https://www.navy.com/> <http://www.marines.com/home>

Michigan Public Libraries:

<http://www.publiclibraries.com/michigan.htm>

Genesee District Library:

<https://www.thegdl.org>

Community Mental Health:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_2941_4868_4899---,00.html

Michigan Rehabilitation Services:

https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-94422_97702---,00.html

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_5528-144763--,00.html



Disability Network:

<http://www.dnmm.org/>

Michigan Community College Network:

<https://michigancc.net/>

Employment_Opportunities:

Job Corps:

<http://www.jobcorps.gov/>

MI Works:

<http://www.michiganworks.org>



Appendix 6.0

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Access Committee – Flint & Genesee County Healthcare Resource Guide

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Buffie, Nick August 30, 2022. *5 Little-Known Facts about Taxes and Inequality in America*. Center for American Progress.

City of Flint 2023-2025 Consolidated Plan

Failing Septic Systems in Mid-Michigan: An Unseen Threat to Public Health, 4/30/2018, prepared by Public Sector Consultants, Lansing Michigan

Flint & Genesee County Michigan Community Health Needs Assessment Report 2022

Flint & Genesee State of Literacy Report, 2023, Flint & Genesee Literacy Network

Food Security Council, Final Report, Feb.7,2022,

GCCARD 2022 Needs Assessment Report

GCCARD 5 Year Plan (2007-2012)

GCCARD Advisory Board Minutes 2017-2023

GCCARD Head Start and Early Head Start Annual Report 2022

Genesee County Parks Annual Report 2023

Genesee County Resource Guide, pdf,
([Mclaren.org/uploads/Public/Document/MPHO/documents/community-linkage/2022/2022%20Genesee%20county%20community%20Resource.pdf](https://www.mclaren.org/uploads/Public/Document/MPHO/documents/community-linkage/2022/2022%20Genesee%20county%20community%20Resource.pdf))

[Genhs.org/wp-content/uploads/sites3/2024/01/Genesee-County-Resources-Updated4-4-43-1.pdf](https://www.genhs.org/wp-content/uploads/sites3/2024/01/Genesee-County-Resources-Updated4-4-43-1.pdf)

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(<https://www.pewresearch.org/race-ethnicity/2023/12/04/wealth-surged-in-the-pandemic-but-debt-endures-for-poorer-black-and-hispanic-families/>)

(<http://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/fact-sheet/facts-about-the-us-black-population/>)



<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/08/31/black-workers-views-and-experiences-in-the-us-labor-force-stand-out-in-key-ways/>

KIDS COUNT IN MICHIGAN 2023

Michigan Statewide Housing Plan, June 2022. (<http://www.Michigan.gov/HousingPlan>).

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Miller, Naseem S. August 3, 2021. *Death and taxes: Research links neighborhood race, tax delinquency and life expectancy*. The Journalist's Resource, Harvard Kennedy School, Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy.

Shilling, Joseph and Jimena Pinzón, *The Basics of Blight: Recent Research on Its Drivers, Impacts and Interventions* VPRN Research & Policy Brief No. TWO and THREE. VPRN Property Research Network 2016 <http://vacantpropertyresearch.com/>

Talk Poverty, Yearly Poverty by State Data

<http://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/michigan-2020-report/>

University of Michigan, Poverty Solutions, Michigan Poverty and Well-being Map: East

“Urban Poverty: Challenges and Solutions in City Environments” (<https://www.graygroupintl.com/blog/urban-poverty#:~:text=Factors> such as unemployment%2C underemployment, significant issue in urban areas.

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USGCRP, 2016: *The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*. Crimmins, A., J. Balbus, J.L. Gamble, C.B. Beard, J.E. Bell, D. Dodgen, R.J. Eisen, N. Fann, M.D. Hawkins, S.C. Herring, L. Jantarasami, D.M. Mills, S. Saha, M.C. Sarofim, J. Trtanj and L Ziska, Eds. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington DD, 312pp. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7930/JJR49NQX>

www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/geneseecountymichigan.US/PST045222

<https://data.census.gov>

USA Community Action Partnership Data Report

US News and World Report, “Healthiest Communities”.