Allegan County is an awesome place to live, work and play. Allegan County rests in the southwest part of lower Michigan. A county rich in agriculture and abundant natural resources, it is approximately 827 square miles with 25 miles of coastline along Lake Michigan. It is the 18th largest county in Michigan and has 24 townships. Allegan County is mostly rural, and maintains an agri-business and tourism based economy. Recent investment in light industry and technology have transformed Allegan County into one of the fastest growing regions in the state.

While there is much to celebrate in the county, this report identifies pressing and prevalent issues within the community’s health and human service sector(s). This is the first full-scale Community Needs Assessment conducted and coordinated by Allegan County United Way (ACUW). ACUW identified several reasons for conducting this analysis: 1) to reduce duplicated assessment efforts; 2) to build upon already existing programs; 3) to understand community limitations and/or gaps in need; and 4) to illuminate a “case-statement” for community support.

In January 2017, a Community Assessment Steering Committee (CASC) was recruited to meet and launch this process. To guide the CASC in prioritizing and determining critical issues, a key informant survey was created. The committee reviewed and revised this survey for distribution to community leaders in Allegan County. The 93 survey respondents represented a cross section of community leadership to include: education, business and industry, public, private, nonprofit and faith-based organizations. Resulting data exposed four critical areas of concern: education, financial stability, health, and basic needs. Community “Think Tanks” were created to correspond with these focus areas. Each group was charged to collect and review relevant data, revealing pressing and prevalent issues.

The pages that follow reveal specific health and human service trends that emphasize the need for increased dialogue, focus and resources. The information contained in this report is designed for use by (1) organizations throughout the county for purposes such as: strategic planning, proposal preparation, and grant seeking; and (2) community-wide groups to inform action planning and serve as a baseline for measuring change in Allegan County using a set of valid and reliable indicators. With this assessment, Allegan County can marshal resources and align improvement efforts that address identified gaps and foster community engagement, partnership and collaboration.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Allegan County United Way Staff and Board, along with the Community Assessment Steering Committee, would like to thank each of these dedicated community champions for their hard work. The amount of time, energy and resources committed was substantial, and is deeply appreciated.

Patrick Moran, Allegan County United Way
Debbie Jennings, Allegan County United Way
Maurita Brooks, Gryphon Place 2-1-1
Hesal Dalgyan-Williams, Allegan Area Educational Service Agency, Allegan County United Way Impact Committee Co-Chair
Theresa Bray, Allegan County Community Foundation
William Brown, Allegan Area Educational Service Agency
Penny Byrum, Allegan County United Way Impact Committee Co-Chair
Lisa Evans, Community Action Allegan County
Ami Vasquez, Allegan County Great Start Collaborative
Gordon Wickens, Allegan Area Educational Service Agency

THINK TANKS

EDUCATION

Yvette House, STAR Family Literacy Program, AAEA
Brenda Nyhoff, Allegan Public Schools
David Nyitray, Outdoor Discovery Center
Rhonda Roemmosen, Allegan Area Educational Service Agency
Laurie Schmitt, Allegan Area Educational Service Agency, Co-Chair
Sarah Sea, Community Action Allegan County, Co-Chair
Arv Vasquez, Allegan County Great Start Collaborative
Gordon Wichers, Allegan Area Educational Service Agency
Charly Wynne, Plainwell Community Schools

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Hera Dalgyan-Williams, Allegan Area Educational Service Agency
Lisa Evans, Community Action Allegan County, Co-Chair
Angela Gallages, West Michigan Works, Co-Chair
Yvette House, Allegan Area Educational Service Agency
Brenda Mcleod, Community Action Allegan County
Lovejoy Stagg, Community Bank Michigan
Brie Stuller, 70 x 7 Life Recovery

HEALTH

Christy Deenitz, Michigan State University Extension
Amy Edrix, Allegan County Community Mental Health Services
Jennifer Garcia, Allegan General Hospital Foundation
Angelique Jyore, MPH, RN, Allegan County Department of Public Health
Max Lawrence, Allegan County Community Mental Health Services
Lisa Lotts, Allegan County Department of Health
Theresa Lynn, PhD, RN, LMSN, Wings of Hope Hospice
Marc Marques, Renewed Hope
Bethany Reimink, Regional Epidemiologist for MDHHS
Gary Smith, Allegan County Community Mental Health Services
Mindy Sturman, Van Buren Intermediate School District
Patrick Thorburn-Wright, Allegan County Community Mental Health Services
Jo Verbeek, Evergreen Commons

BASIC NEEDS

Maricela Alcala, Gryphon Place 2-1-1
Lori Antenovitch, Safe Harbor Children’s Advocacy Center
Frank Baker, Allegan County Sheriff
Theresa Bray, Allegan County Community Foundation, Co-Chair
Cara Coleman, Allegan County Community Mental Health Services
Anne Dekker, Evergreen Commons
Jennifer Eastman, Department of Health and Human Services
Shelby Kalkowski, Gryphon Place
Mark Lott, Allegan County Transportation
Betty McDaniels, Allegan County Commission on Aging
Tommy Mick, Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan
Sherry Owen, Allegan County Senior & Veteran Services
Sarah Sobel, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan
George Warden, Homebodies of Western Michigan
Tara Wilkes, Allegan County Community Mental Health Services
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary pg. 4
County Demographics pg. 11
Education pg. 15
Financial Stability pg. 29
Health pg. 42
Top 3 Ways to Use the Assessment pg. 54
Basic Needs pg. 55
The Steering Committee for the 2017 Allegan County United Way Community Assessment began the assessment process with a Key Stakeholder Survey of more than 90 leaders from health and human services in Allegan County.

Their initial review of the data set led them to create ‘Think Tanks’ in four areas for further research and analysis: Education, Financial Stability, Health and Basic Needs. The following is a short summary of the findings from the think tanks.

The 2017 ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) Report shows the Economic Viability Dashboard for Allegan County. This provides a window directly into the economic conditions that matter most to the ALICE households and why these households struggle to achieve basic economic stability. Three dimensions are shown: the Housing Affordability Index, Job Opportunity Index and the Community Support Index. Each index is represented on a scale from 1 (worst economic conditions for ALICE) to 100 (best economic conditions).

**EDUCATION**

**Early Care & Education:**
According to the latest census data, approximately 22% of the children under the age of 5 (over 1,500) live in poverty in Allegan County. State estimates show that approximately 60% of families with children under 5 have ‘all their parents’ in the workforce. Many children are without a place to receive quality, affordable early childhood services that will enable them to enter school ready to learn. In fact, only 41% of 3 and 4-year olds were registered in licensed preschools in Allegan County, the vast majority of those in Head Start and Great Start Readiness preschools.

**K-12 Education:**
There is a significant disparity between the reading proficiency (ELA) and math proficiency of economically disadvantaged students vs. not economically disadvantaged students. The percentage of proficient students decreases from 3rd through 8th grade for both groups.

**Post Secondary Experiences & Workforce Development:**
Until 2016, with the approval of the Lake Michigan College Satellite Campus at the Allegan Area Technical and Education Center, there had not been a post-secondary institution in the county. For the class of 2010, approximately 40% completed a post-secondary experience. Individuals with higher levels of training earn more and have less chance of unemployment.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Steering Committee for the 2017 Allegan County United Way Community Assessment began the assessment process with a Key Stakeholder Survey of more than 90 leaders from health and human services in Allegan County. Their initial review of the data set led them to create ‘Think Tanks’ in four areas for further research and analysis: Education, Financial Stability, Health and Basic Needs. The following is a short summary of the findings from the think tanks.

The 2017 ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) Report shows the Economic Viability Dashboard for Allegan County. This provides a window directly into the economic conditions that matter most to the ALICE households and why these households struggle to achieve basic economic stability. Three dimensions are shown: the Housing Affordability Index, Job Opportunity Index and the Community Support Index. Each index is represented on a scale from 1 (worst economic conditions for ALICE) to 100 (best economic conditions).

**EDUCATION**

**Early Care & Education:**
According to the latest census data, approximately 22% of the children under the age of 5 (over 1,500) live in poverty in Allegan County. State estimates show that approximately 60% of families with children under 5 have ‘all their parents’ in the workforce. Many children are without a place to receive quality, affordable early childhood services that will enable them to enter school ready to learn. In fact, only 41% of 3 and 4-year olds were registered in licensed preschools in Allegan County, the vast majority of those in Head Start and Great Start Readiness preschools.

**K-12 Education:**
There is a significant disparity between the reading proficiency (ELA) and math proficiency of economically disadvantaged students vs. not economically disadvantaged students. The percentage of proficient students decreases from 3rd through 8th grade for both groups.

**Post Secondary Experiences & Workforce Development:**
Until 2016, with the approval of the Lake Michigan College Satellite Campus at the Allegan Area Technical and Education Center, there had not been a post-secondary institution in the county. For the class of 2010, approximately 40% completed a post-secondary experience. Individuals with higher levels of training earn more and have less chance of unemployment.
Let us introduce you to ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed), households representing those with income above the federal poverty level (FPL) but below a basic survival threshold that enables the purchase of necessities. ALICE households are working or have worked, yet public and private assistance are not enough to help them reach economic stability.

The number of households in poverty and ALICE households combined equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs. Even with at least one person in the household working, 37% of households in Allegan County don’t earn enough to reach the basic survival threshold.

In the 2017 United Way Key Stakeholder Survey of more than 90 Allegan County experts in human services, health was ranked as the #1 issue in Allegan County. Two times more stakeholders ranked health and health-related issues as the #1 issue over the next highest priority area.

Mental Health:
13% of adults in Allegan County have had poor mental health on at least 14 of the past 30 days and 23% have been told they have depression by a doctor.

Access to Care/Cost of Care:
13% of the population is uninsured. Low-income families with insurance struggle to find care facilities that will accept them and struggle to pay for care. Allegan County has a low number of primary care physicians and dentists per capita with 17% of the population having no healthcare provider and 12% having no access due to cost.

In Allegan County ranks 48th in the state for clinical care.

There is a strong belief among the local experts in health that transportation is a barrier in accessing health care.

Healthy Lifestyles:
In County health rankings Allegan County ranks 33rd in health behaviors, and 72nd for a healthy physical environment.

16% of Allegan adults state that their health is poor or fair.

Only 1 in 5 adults get adequate physical activity and only 28% are at a healthy weight.

Children:
Although the number has slightly declined since 2010, 31% of high school students struggle with mental health issues and 17% have seriously considered suicide.

### Household Survival Budget, Allegan County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Costs</th>
<th>SINGLE ADULT</th>
<th>2 ADULTS</th>
<th>1 PERSON</th>
<th>1 PRECHOOLER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$736</td>
<td>$1,281</td>
<td>$1,313</td>
<td>$2,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>$–</td>
<td>$1,030</td>
<td>$1,030</td>
<td>$1,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$104</td>
<td>$526</td>
<td>$526</td>
<td>$526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$240</td>
<td>$670</td>
<td>$670</td>
<td>$670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>$135</td>
<td>$725</td>
<td>$725</td>
<td>$725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$149</td>
<td>$456</td>
<td>$456</td>
<td>$456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$154</td>
<td>$397</td>
<td>$397</td>
<td>$397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Total</td>
<td>$1,630</td>
<td>$4,462</td>
<td>$4,462</td>
<td>$4,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNUAL TOTAL</td>
<td>$19,632</td>
<td>$53,544</td>
<td>$53,544</td>
<td>$53,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Wage</td>
<td>$763</td>
<td>$2,382</td>
<td>$2,382</td>
<td>$2,382</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Executive Summary

To the left is the ALICE Survival Budget, which calculates the actual costs of basic necessities, such as housing, childcare, food, healthcare and transportation, and is adjusted for different household types.

The other table is the Household Stability Budget (p.32) which reflects the cost of household necessities at a modest but sustainable level and it adds a savings category; it is also adjusted for different household types.

The full ALICE report shows the survival and stability budgets for multiple family types.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BASIC NEEDS

Allegan County’s 2-1-1 service provided by Gryphon Place receives calls from individuals looking for support with social services. More than 70% of all calls to 2-1-1 that are successfully referred to a service provider are in the basic needs category. 57% of the calls made for which there was no service available, or the individual did not qualify for service were basic needs related.

Food:
› The Feeding America ‘Map the Meal Gap’ study reports that 11,820 Allegan residents are ‘food insecure’.
› 40% of all students in Allegan County Schools qualify for free/reduced lunch.

Shelter:
› A 2015 ALICE study showed that of the 8,864 renter occupied units in Allegan County, 60% are rented by households living below the Livable Wage Threshold.
› A 2016 Point-in-Time study showed that on one night in Allegan County 56 individuals were found homeless.
› 451 individual clients sought homeless services in Allegan County in 2016, even though there is no homeless shelter in Allegan County.

Transportation:
› Transportation was labeled as a top issue in a 2017 United Way Key Stakeholder Survey on Allegan County. The lack of reliable transportation has negative effects on employability, health care access, child care, nutrition and general quality of life.

Exploitation, Abuse & Neglect:
› Child abuse investigations, confirmed cases for 0-5 and 0-17, in the home and out of home all increased annually for the last 5 years.

Seniors:
› Although the senior millage does much to support the needs of our growing population of 65+ residents, almost 1 in 5 clients served by the Area Agency on Aging live below the poverty level.
DEMOGRAPHICS

Allegan County Education Attainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Attainment 25 yrs &amp; older</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>25 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population 25 yrs &amp; older</td>
<td>75,605</td>
<td>75.69%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 9th grade</td>
<td>2,446</td>
<td>3.20%</td>
<td>5.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th to 12th grade, no diploma</td>
<td>5,218</td>
<td>6.90%</td>
<td>7.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate (includes equivalency)</td>
<td>28,969</td>
<td>38.30%</td>
<td>27.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>16,415</td>
<td>21.70%</td>
<td>21.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate's degree</td>
<td>6,297</td>
<td>8.30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>10,992</td>
<td>14.50%</td>
<td>18.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
<td>5,268</td>
<td>7.00%</td>
<td>11.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent high school graduate or higher | 89.9% |

Percent bachelor's degree or higher | 27.8% |

Allegan County Population by Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>8,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9 years</td>
<td>6,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14 years</td>
<td>7,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>7,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>9,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34 years</td>
<td>12,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44 years</td>
<td>13,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54 years</td>
<td>17,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64 years</td>
<td>8,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74 years</td>
<td>7,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 to 84 years</td>
<td>4,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 years and over</td>
<td>1,832</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Allegan County Population by Location

Allegan County United Way 2017 Community Assessment

COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS
“Quality educational experiences that begin at birth lead to successful outcomes later in life, both economically and socially. We can achieve this through collaborative partnerships across all sectors of our community.”

— Allegan County Superintendents Association

Early Care & Education

There are approximately 8,000 children in Allegan County below the age of five. Early care and education of this population is vital to long term educational success. A popular saying among local education experts is 'start ahead, stay ahead.' If this is true, then the opposite concept 'start behind, stay behind' is something that must be addressed in this very short, but important 4-5 year span of life.

The ALICE data (low-income employed families that struggle to afford the basic cost of living) shows that 37% of working families struggle to afford the basic cost of living, and from the table on page 18 you can see the strain that childcare places on those families.

In the Household Survival Budget for a family of four, child care accounts for 24% of the family budget. Yet for many ALICE households, 24% of earned income is not enough to pay for even home-based child care, the least expensive organized care option.

$5.6 million dollars in allocations from GSRP and Head Start/Early Head Start were available to Allegan County in 2015. Yet when income and government and nonprofit assistance are combined, there is still a 50% gap in resources for all Michigan households to meet the basic ALICE threshold for child care.

Sources

1. Kids Count Data Center, A Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016
2. United Way ALICE Report - Michigan, April 2017
3. Community Action Allegan County
4. MI School Data
5. U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
6. United Way Common Good Forecaster

Population Ages 0-4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Data Type</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegan</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>7,501</td>
<td>7,227</td>
<td>7,041</td>
<td>6,933</td>
<td>6,818</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ALICE data (low-income employed families that struggle to afford the basic cost of living) shows that 37% of working families struggle to afford the basic cost of living, and from the table on page 18 you can see the strain that childcare places on those families.

In the Household Survival Budget for a family of four, child care accounts for 24% of the family budget. Yet for many ALICE households, 24% of earned income is not enough to pay for even home-based child care, the least expensive organized care option.

$5.6 million dollars in allocations from GSRP and Head Start/Early Head Start were available to Allegan County in 2015. Yet when income and government and nonprofit assistance are combined, there is still a 50% gap in resources for all Michigan households to meet the basic ALICE threshold for child care.
"Added to this cost barrier for childcare / preschool is the reality that, for a family already struggling to afford childcare, transportation costs are also usually a barrier. The average Michigan gap in resources for all households to meet the basic ALICE Threshold for transportation is a 51 percent gap." —Patrick Moran, President, Allegan County United Way

The barriers to quality childcare and preschool, especially for low-income families, may be a part of the lower success rates in grade school for economically disadvantaged students. These barriers include cost, number of slots available in each community, knowledge about available services and logistics such as timing of drop off / pick up and transportation.

For a two-income family with two kids under five years old, child care costs (for the most basic care available) is the most expensive item by far. For higher quality care and preschool this cost could double.

Although the % of families with kids under 5 that have all parents working is at a 5 year low in Allegan County, we still have more than 60% of kids needing some form of child care that will fulfill their need to 'start ahead and stay ahead' educationally.

In 2015 ACECS study of over 200 local parents of 0-5, the survey reported that 72% of the parents surveyed had their child attend preschool (p. 37 Allegan County Early Childhood Survey)

AND 53% of respondents use childcare due to work or educational schedule during birth - 5 yrs. (p. 18 Allegan County early childhood survey)

AND 32% would attend preschool if before/after care was available (p. 36)

AND 14% didn’t attend preschool because of barriers (p. 41)

The survey also reported that 42% of respondents have accessed Community services such as food banks etc. (p. 20)
The chart below shows growth over time for 3 and 4-year olds in Head Start domains that are critical for school readiness.

Children Ages 0-5 in Special Education

In the 2016 Allegan County Early Childhood Survey completed by 161 parents of children in Head Start, Early Head Start, Great Start Readiness Preschool Program and Imagination Library:

- 43% of the children live with both biological parents
- 76% of parents have a high school diploma or less, as their highest academic achievement
- 75% of children were covered with government-sponsored healthcare, and 5% had no health insurance coverage
- 1 in 4 parents felt that their child would need extra help with learning upon entering Kindergarten
- Almost 1 in 3 children in the survey are read to less than three times per week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Data Type</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegan</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>3.65</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number represents the average number of children ages 3-4 who were enrolled in a preschool program for the 3-year period ending with the listed year.

The percent is based on the average population ages 3-4 for that time period.
Quality schools, motivated teachers and well-prepared students are key ingredients to creating a well-educated and prepared workforce. However, 'social determinants' also play a key role. The social determinants of education are the economic and social conditions facing our families and their distribution among the population that influence individual and group differences in educational progress and attainment.

Although poverty rates among K-12 students have been decreasing for several years, the number of students in the ALICE population and the number of students eligible for free and reduced price lunches remain high.

Range of total students proficient at 3rd grade English in Allegan County schools is 28% - 80%
Range of total students proficient at 8th grade English in Allegan County Schools is 26% - 54%
Range of total students proficient at 3rd grade Math in Allegan County schools is 23% - 82%
Range of total students proficient at 8th grade Math in Allegan County Schools is 15% - 49%

On average, proficiency for both economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students decreases between third and eighth grade.

The disparity in math and ELA achievements between non-economically disadvantaged and economically disadvantaged is significant and creates an enormous barrier to long term financial stability.
**POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

The data is very clear about the importance of post-secondary experiences. Students that graduate High School and go on to attain some level of post secondary accreditation (license, certification, associates or higher ed degree) will earn more over their lifetime, have less unemployment and higher financial stability than those that don’t.

---

**2014-15 Graduation Dropout Entity Breakdown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location Name</th>
<th>Total Cohort</th>
<th>Total Graduated</th>
<th>Grad Computer (GED, etc.)</th>
<th>On Track</th>
<th>Grad Dropouts</th>
<th>Graduation Rate</th>
<th>Dropout Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>122,544</td>
<td>97,773</td>
<td>12,385</td>
<td>11,176</td>
<td>79.79%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegan Public Schools (03030)</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>68.37%</td>
<td>13.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fennville Public Schools (03050)</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>81.25%</td>
<td>11.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopkins Public Schools (03070)</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>90.48%</td>
<td>4.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Public Schools (03060)</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>92.68%</td>
<td>4.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otsego Public Schools (03020)</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>90.48%</td>
<td>4.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainwell Community Schools (03010)</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>88.58%</td>
<td>3.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayland Union Schools (03040)</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>87.76%</td>
<td>8.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlook Academy (03902)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegan Area Educational Service Agency - District created from ISD (03000)</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>28.57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Post-secondary Progression by Graduating Class - This report shows how AAESA students are progressing in postsecondary education after high school graduation. Although a high percentage of students begin post-secondary experiences (PSE), not enough are finishing their program.

Low literacy individuals struggle to find employment; they settle for low-paying jobs; they fight to increase their earning power and to support their families. They under-utilize the healthcare system out of fear, or over-utilize it because they are unable to follow written instructions on prescriptions or discharge papers.

Perhaps most heartbreaking is the long term effect their low-literacy has on their children – children who never hear a bedtime story or receive help with homework because their parent can’t read. Low literacy becomes intergenerational: the strongest indicator of a child’s success in school is his mother’s level of education. (The Literacy Center - http://theliteracycenter.org/about/why-literacy-matters/)

If the Literacy Center is correct in its comment about the mother’s level of education, then there is cause for concern based on the Allegan Early Childhood Survey report that less than 30% of mothers responding have completed post-secondary experiences.

It is estimated that 8 percent of adults in Allegan County (perhaps as high as 15%) lack basic prose literacy skills (NCES, 2003). These adults range from being unable to read and understand any written information in English to being able to locate easily identifiable information in short commonplace text. This estimate also includes adults who could not be tested due to language barriers. This means 7,050-12,443 Allegan County adults do not have the literacy skills to be successful readers.
Education as a Change Agent

United Way Worldwide partners with the American Human Development project on a data tool called ‘The Common Good Forecaster.’ This forecaster uses specific data points from around the country to project what a community would look like if all individuals increased their education by one ‘level.’ (Dropout to high school graduate / high school grad to some college/some college to 4 yr etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>FUTURE SCENARIO</th>
<th>PROJECTED CHANGE</th>
<th>AFFECT ON COMMUNITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>Decreased 10 points</td>
<td>Life Expectancy 1.9 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School, Incl GED</td>
<td>High School, Incl GED</td>
<td>Decreased 29 points</td>
<td>Median Personal Income $7,800 (23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College or Assoc Deg.</td>
<td>Some College or Assoc Deg.</td>
<td>Increased 9 points</td>
<td>Poverty Rate From 11% to 6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Grad or More</td>
<td>College Grad or More</td>
<td>Increased 31 points</td>
<td>Unemployment Rate By almost 2pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Life Expectancy: Increased 1.9 years
- Median Personal Income: Increased $7,800 (23%)
- Poverty Rate: Decreased from 11% to 6.4%
- Unemployment Rate: Decreased by almost 2pts
- Voting Rate: Increased by 14 pts

**Figure 20**

Common Good Forecaster

[Allegan County United Way 2017 Community Assessment]
While it is well recognized that Michigan has faced daunting economic times with the decline of the auto industry and the Great Recession, the official poverty level of 15% (11% in Allegan County) obscures the true magnitude of the financial instability in our communities. The official formula that calculates the United States poverty rate was developed in 1964 and has not had a major update in over 30 years, and is not adjusted to reflect the cost of living difference across the United States. A lack of accurate measurements and language to frame a discussion has made it difficult for states – including Michigan – to identify the extent of the economic challenges so many of their residents face.

ALICE represents the men and women of all ages and races who get up each day to go to work, but who face tough financial choices. ALICE is not an individual, but a conceptual blending of all those in our community who bring home a paycheck that doesn’t stretch to cover household needs. ALICE is glad to have a job, proud of their work, and happy to contribute to the community. ALICE has no cushion. ALICE has no fall back, their assets are limited, and their income is constrained. ALICE is one crisis away from financial ruin. A rent hike, a family illness, the need for new car tires, things that the rest of us see as an inconvenience, are a crisis for ALICE all across our community. The key to Financial Stability is prevention – finding ways to keep people from falling off the edge, either into ALICE or from ALICE into poverty.

**FINANCIAL STABILITY**

**Sources**

The following are the numbered sources for the Education section; they will be shown next to each figure in this format: (*1).

1. United Way ALICE Report - Michigan, April 2017
2. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
3. Erickcek, George. W.E. Upjohn Institute
5. Department of Housing and Urban Development
6. Allegan County 2-1-1/Gryphon Place
7. Coordinated Mobility Plan: Prosperity Region 4, May 2016

**MEET ALICE**

**ALICE IN ALLEGAN COUNTY**

2015 Point-in-Time Data

- Population: 114,625
- Number of Households: 42,079
- Median Household Income: $35,250 (state average: $35,064)
- Unemployment Rate: 1.9% (state average: 2.2%)
- ALICE Households: 26% (state average: 25%)
- Poverty Households: 11% (state average: 15%)

**ISSUE AREAS:**

- Meet ALICE
- Economic Viability Dashboard
- Housing Affordability Index
- Job Opportunities Index
- Community Support Index
- Barriers for ALICE Population
- Food
- Transportation
- Cost of Healthcare
- Cost of Childcare
- Education/Training Gaps
- Financial Literacy
What is Poverty?

Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials to enjoy a minimum standard of life and well-being that’s considered acceptable in society. Poverty status in the United States is assigned to people that do not meet a certain threshold level set by the Department of Health and Human Services.

### FINANCIAL STABILITY

#### Household Budget, Allegan County, MI, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Single Adult</th>
<th>2 Adult, 1 Child, 2014</th>
<th>2 Adult, 2 Children, 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Needs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$713</td>
<td>$848</td>
<td>$945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$454</td>
<td>$495</td>
<td>$591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$794</td>
<td>$1,119</td>
<td>$1,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>$814</td>
<td>$716</td>
<td>$740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$172</td>
<td>$187</td>
<td>$184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings</td>
<td>$172</td>
<td>$187</td>
<td>$184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Phone</td>
<td>$64</td>
<td>$62</td>
<td>$64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>$275</td>
<td>$270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Total</td>
<td>$2,445</td>
<td>$2,445</td>
<td>$2,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$29,261</td>
<td>$28,452</td>
<td>$28,452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1 Child, 2 Adult, 2 Children, 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Needs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$1,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>$740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings</td>
<td>$184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Phone</td>
<td>$64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax</td>
<td>$270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Total</td>
<td>$2,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$28,452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2017 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty Category</th>
<th>Persons in family/household</th>
<th>Poverty guideline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>$12,060</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 people</td>
<td>$16,240</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 people</td>
<td>$24,600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 people</td>
<td>$32,960</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although in the last few years the % of people living in poverty and the unemployment rate have both decreased, the number of working families below the Alice Threshold has increased from 35% to 37%, a total of more than 15,500 households in Allegan county struggling daily to provide for basic needs.
More than any demographic feature, employment defines ALICE households. The financial stability of ALICE workers depends on local job opportunities, as well as the cost and condition of housing, and the availability of community resources. The Economic Viability Dashboard presented in this section describes changes in these economic factors in our area.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES INDEX

- Unemployment in Allegan County is at historic low levels, as of December 2016 it was down to 3.4%. However the ALICE population’s wages do not necessarily match the cost of living.
- In a 2017 Allegan County Key Stakeholder survey ‘Job Availability & Income’ was reported as a top 3 issue and as a greatest unmet need.

Many of the high-demand jobs in the county pay modest wages

If you compare the median hourly wage of Michigan and local jobs to the ALICE Survivability budget you can see why some working families still struggle to make ends meet every month. In the chart below of Michigan’s top 20 occupations, approximately one-third of them would keep a family of four solidly inside the ALICE population.
The Housing affordability dashboard shows on a scale of 0-100 (with higher numbers meaning conditions are better than in other parts of the state) shows Allegan with a 2015 score of 74, a drastic improvement over the 2010 recession number of 42.

Although this is reason to be optimistic, the index is comparative, not holistic. The Allegan County gap in affordable rental units is 5,354 units, with more than 1 in 3 renters paying more than 30% of their income to housing.

Housing burden is the ratio of housing cost to household income. For renters, housing cost is gross rent (contract rent plus utilities). For owners, housing cost includes mortgage payment, utilities, association fees, insurance, and real estate taxes.

In a 2017 Allegan County Key Stakeholder survey ‘Affordable Housing for low income workers’ was reported as a top 2 issue and as a greatest unmet need.
Transportation – Consistent, reliable access to transportation to activities of daily living is crucial.

A 2017 United Way Key Stakeholder Survey of 92 Health & Human service professionals in Allegan County rated Transportation as one of its top 3 issues facing residents.

The Transit Dependence Index (TDI) is an aggregate measure displaying relative concentrations of transit dependent populations. Five factors make up the TDI calculation including population density, autoless households, elderly populations (ages 65 and over), youth populations (ages 10-17), and below poverty populations.

Transportation is a barrier to financial stability getting to & from job

**Transit Dependence Index Density Map:**

**Transit Dependence Population Per Block Group**

- **Very Low**
- **Low**
- **Moderate**
- **High**
- **Very High**

**TDI Population Percentage**
- Measure the degree or percentage of vulnerability. It follows the TDI’s five-tiered categorization of Very Low to Very High.

**Figure 12**

**Figure 13**

**Figure 14**

Local trip generators attract transit demand and include common origins and destinations, like colleges and universities, multi-unit housing, non-profit and governmental agencies, major employers, medical facilities, and shopping centers. The table to the left shows local trip generators.
Journey to Work Patterns

County | Allegan | Percentage
-------|---------|------------
Working 16 Years and Older | 49,552 | 74.73%
Location of Employment
- In State of Residence | 49,290 | 99.30%
- Out of State | 296 | 0.59%
- Inside County of Residence | 26,548 | 53.60%
- Outside State of Residence | 34 | 0.06%
Means of Transportation to Work
- Car, Truck, or Van - Driven Alone | 42,976 | 84.00%
- Car, Truck, or Van - Supervisor | 4,096 | 8.20%
- Public Transportation | 77 | 0.15%
- Walked | 244 | 4.80%
- Rented, motocycle, bicycle, other | 446 | 8.90%
- Worked at Home | 2,145 | 4.30%

Top 5 Employment Destinations for Allegan-Housed Workers

It is interesting to note that when listing employment destinations for Allegan-housed workers, the vast majority (87%) were travelling to destinations categorized as “All Others.”

Housing

- Extreme housing burden is defined as housing costs exceeding 35% of income. For a single adult in Allegan County, a one-bedroom apartment accounts for 37% of the Survival Budget.
- Rental and owner gaps: This refers to the number of additional rental and owner units needed that are affordable to households with incomes below the ALICE threshold so that all of these households would pay less than 35% of income for housing.

With 8,864 occupied rentals and a shortage of 5,354 affordable units for ALICE households, Allegan County requires a 60% increase in the number of affordable rental units.

Job Opportunities

- As is true across the West Michigan region, the unemployment rate is low in Allegan County at 3.4%. What this statistic does not detail is that 60% of all jobs in Michigan pay less than $40,000 per year. A household stability budget for an Allegan County family with 2 children was calculated at $86,785 in 2012.
- Occupations which require minimal education and training, such as service jobs, are those occupations which are expected to experience growth rates above medium and/or high skilled occupations. These lower skilled occupations pay low wages of $15 or less per hour.

Transportation

- The 2017 United Way Stakeholder Survey of the Health and Human Service professionals in Allegan rated Transportation as one of its top 3 issues.
- The lack of interconnectivity across the county as well as a reduced window of opportunity for its use due to its limited service hours are key to the concerns with the transportation options available in Allegan County.

Financial Literacy

- While it is duly noted that many times, ALICE families do not typically have the resources to allocate towards savings and/or retirement, it is clear that the lack of financial literacy is a contributor to this limited ability to save.
- The lack of understanding of finance and its impact on daily decisions is a gap that can have lingering and devastating effects. A lack of understanding results in the increase of fees and changes toward individuals and families who can least withstand their financial blows. One study estimates that up to one-third of the fees and changes posted to those with lower debt literacy is due to a lack of knowledge. Overall, financial mistakes tend to be more common among those with less education and income.
Sources
The following are the numbered sources for the Education section; they will be shown next to each figure in this format: (*1).

1. Allegan County United Way Key Stakeholder Survey, 2017
2. CountyHealthRankings.org
3. Michigan Department of Community Health
5. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2015
7. Michigan Department of Education
Together: Striving for a Healthier Allegan County

Allegan County is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. With a plethora of outdoor parks and abundant natural resources, residents and visitors to our county have every opportunity to get out, get active, and enjoy nature.

Even with these opportunities to improve overall health, Allegan County ranked 12th in County Health Rankings – Health Outcomes, out of the 83 counties in Michigan. Health rose to the top of the list in the key stakeholders survey with the most prevalent county-wide health-related issues being access to mental health, access to dentists, and access to primary care. Allegan County has two hospitals and less than a handful of free or low-cost medical clinics, however given the sizeable reach of the county and limited public transit, access to healthcare can often be a struggle for priority populations.

To monitor and impact the health of Allegan County, health indicators have been prioritized to focus on access to care, diet and exercise, and family and social support. Specifically, efforts focused around diet and exercise have seen improvement over the past two years, moving in the right direction. The obesity rate has dropped from 34% from 2 years ago to 30% in 2017.

Several contributing factors can influence health outcomes, such as adequate housing, transportation, education, and financial stability. Health leaders throughout the county are continuing to work together with other sectors to make Allegan County a healthier, happier place to live, work and play.

Key Stakeholder Survey Results

- More than 90 experts and Human Service providers in Allegan County participated in a 2017 survey to identify areas for further research.
- The results on page 35 showed that Health was the #1 reported issue in Allegan County. When several health-related issues were merged (health, food/nutrition, drug abuse) into the health category then it is reported as rating twice as prevalent as the #2 issue.

In addition to the table above, inside of the health rankings in the Key stakeholder survey, mental health was the most mentioned health issue.

Health mentions in priority order:

- Mental Health Needs
- Cost and Access of Health Care
- Proper Nutrition / Food for Low Income
- Drug Abuse

In a 2016 report by Allegan General Hospital the survey to prioritize Community Needs overwhelmingly agreed that mental health/substance abuse was the biggest issue. The same report said 15% of respondents did not see a doctor due to cost.
In some areas Allegan County is better than the State but still a cause for concern for those affected by these issues.

Research shows that where a person lives matters. Where people live impacts their health outcomes. The County Health Rankings model is based on a model of population health that emphasizes the many factors that, if improved, can help make communities healthier places to live, learn, work, and play.

This model started with Wisconsin's counties in 2003 and is now used for most counties in the United States.

This model started with Wisconsin's counties in 2003 and is now used for most counties in the United States.

Research shows that where a person lives matters. Where people live impacts their health outcomes. The County Health Rankings model is based on a model of population health that emphasizes the many factors that, if improved, can help make communities healthier places to live, learn, work, and play.

In Michigan there are currently 83 counties that are ranked. These rankings occur annually.

Allegan County ranked 12th for Health Outcomes, 15th for Quality of Life, 17th for Length of Life, and 23rd for Health Behaviors out of 83 counties in Michigan in 2016.

Health Outcomes are the length and quality of life which is Allegan County’s current state of health. The rest of the health factors such as health behaviors, clinical care, social economic factors, and physical environment are what decides the future state of health for Allegan County.

These rankings are relative to the health of the rest of the state. Ranking 12th in Health Outcomes does not mean we are doing well, just that we are ahead of many other counties.

Profile of Allegan County, 2014

| LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH | Allegheny County | Michigan | % Better than
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------|
| Deaths Rate | 5,949 | 7,354 | 22.9%
| Discharges Rate | 10,032 | 13,122 | 21.3%
| Total Hospital Admissions | 5,957 | 7,012 | 20.4%
| Activity Limitations | 5.9% | 7.0% | 20.4%
| Low Birth Weight Babies | 6.7% | 8.4% | 20.4%
| Psychiatric Deaths | 7.0 | 8.6 | 17.6%
| Heart Disease (Deaths) | 169.5 | 203.5 | 16.7%
| Asthma | 10.9% | 15.4% | 26.6%
| Amputate below Knee | 27.2% | 31.5% | 13.7%
| Per Capita Health Care Spending (Medicare) | $8,634 | $9,450 | 19.2%
| Cancer (New Cases) | 429.4 | 462.1 | 8.8%
| Colonoscopy Cancer Screening | 71.8% | 64.5% | 11.5%
| Cancer (Deaths) | 162.3 | 182.4 | 10.9%
In some areas we are doing worse than the state with considerable cause for concern.

### Health Status Data (MDHHS) – Unfavorable for Allegan County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Factor</th>
<th>Allegan County (%)</th>
<th>Michigan (%)</th>
<th>% Worse than Average (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Health</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>63.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care Physicians</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>62.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metastatic Cancer</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>44.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy Drinking</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>44.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness &amp; Recreational Facilities</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>40.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Smokers</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>37.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Providers</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths from Motor Vehicle Crashes</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>29.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes (Deaths)</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes (Prevalence)</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air pollution</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths from Kidney Disease</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Where we are now.

Overall, Allegan’s health outcomes are ranked 37th in the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Factor</th>
<th>Allegan County (%)</th>
<th>Top US Performers (%)</th>
<th>Michigan (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length of Life</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Life</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are benchmarks for how many providers are available per person. The primary care provider benchmark is 1,045:1. The dentist benchmark is 1,377:1 and the mental health provider benchmark is 386:1. As you can see from the above chart, Allegan County is radically underserved in all of these areas.
While Medicaid and Healthy Michigan health insurance are available in Allegan County, it is possible that the 4.5% uninsured children either (a) cannot afford the required co-pays, (b) do not know how to apply, or (c) are ineligible due to an undocumented status.

## Children

### Kids Count

#### ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
<th>MR RATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children with health insurance</td>
<td>28,114</td>
<td>96.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children, ages 0-18, insured by...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Medicaid</td>
<td>10,063</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- MICHILD</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> While Medicaid and Healthy Michigan health insurance are available in Allegan County, it is possible that the 4.5% uninsured children either (a) cannot afford the required co-pays, (b) do not know how to apply, or (c) are ineligible due to an undocumented status.

### Suicide Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage of students who felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months: *</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Middle School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mental Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage of students who have talked to you about suicidal thoughts they are having (Focus group questions only: 2010)</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of students who have talked to you about suicidal thoughts (Focus group questions only: 2010)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lead in Allegan County Children

Lead continues to cause illness and injury, especially in children. Allegan County has older housing stock in the form of homes, apartments and other living environments. In addition, lead in water supplies is more common than previously realized. Other lead exposures may arise from hobbies, work place exposures, imported household products and medical remedies. Lead is a potent neurotoxin, and no safe blood lead level has been identified. Screening and testing are the first steps of case management. Only 15.1% of children under age 6 who should be tested have been.

MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES BELOW AGE TWO

In 2015, 8.3% of Michigan Medicaid beneficiaries below the age of two had at least one dental visit.

County  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegan 5.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Births To Teens Under Age 20

Location  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Type</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegan Number</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Repeat Teen Births Ages 15-19

Location  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Type</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegan Number</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Health Think Tank believes transportation is a barrier to accessing health services that likely impacts health outcomes for Allegan County residents, including:

- Health Care Provider is out of Allegan County or out of the designated territory of the transportation service provider.
- Lack of transportation resources to cover the entire county.
- Lack of public education regarding the capabilities of public transportation services.
- Scheduling of a Health Care Provider’s appointments may not coincide with the availability of the public transportation’s schedule.
- Individuals may need personal assistance with leaving their home or entering into the Health Care Provider’s facility.

Health Calls

- 57% of the unmet needs for 2016 were basic needs related.
- 71% of our met needs in 2016 were basic needs related.

Figure 12 (*8)

Figure 13 (*9)

Figure 14 (*6)

Figure 15 (*6)
The TOP 3 ways the assessment can be used:

1. Staff from Nonprofit and Human Service agencies use it to help guide their programs and leverage grant funding.

2. Presentations to groups such as local companies, churches, and other civic groups in order to help them focus their charitable and civic efforts on our community needs.

3. Printed and online versions of this document will help any citizen to learn about the needs in our community.
In many cases, the ability to provide for your basic needs is related to financial stability, income and the cost of living in your community. The United Way ALICE study looks at the cost of living for a variety of family types by municipality, and compares that to the wages earned in that community. This ‘ALICE Threshold,’ or the ability to be able to afford to live in your community without support, is a good indicator of basic needs coverage. ALICE is an acronym that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, comprising households with income above the Federal Poverty Level but below the basic cost of living.

ALICE is an acronym that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, comprising households with income above the Federal Poverty Level but below the basic cost of living.

ISSUE AREAS:
- Food
- Shelter
- Transportation
- Exploitation, Abuse & Neglect
- The Basic Needs of Seniors

Although in the last few years the percentage of people living in poverty and the unemployment rate have both decreased, the number of working families living below the ALICE Threshold has increased from 35% to 37%, a total of more than 15,500 households in Allegan County struggling daily to provide for basic needs.

BASIC NEEDS

Sources
The following are the numbered sources for the Education section; they will be shown next to each figure in this format: (*1).

1. United Way ALICE Report - Michigan, April 2017
2. Allegan County 2-1-1/Gryphon Place
4. Feeding America West Michigan
5. Homeless Point-in-Time County 2016
6. MIHomeless.org
7. Allegan County Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA)
8. Allegan County Transportation
9. Interaction Transit Authority
10. Allegan County Senior Millage
11. Allegan County Transportation
12. Michigan League for Public Policy
13. Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

ALICE IN ALLEGAN COUNTY
2015 Point-in-Time Data

Population: 114,625 | Number of Households: 42,079
Median Household Income: $55,250 (state average: $51,084)
Unemployment Rate: 7.2% (state average: 7.2%)
ALICE Households: 20% (state average: 25%) Poverty Households: 11% (state average: 15%)

Household Survival Budget, Allegan County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>SINGLE ADULT</th>
<th>2 ADULTS</th>
<th>1 CHILD</th>
<th>1 PRECHILDER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Costs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$575</td>
<td>$713</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>$184</td>
<td>$276</td>
<td>$456</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$184</td>
<td>$276</td>
<td>$456</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$184</td>
<td>$276</td>
<td>$456</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>$184</td>
<td>$276</td>
<td>$456</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$194</td>
<td>$291</td>
<td>$486</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$194</td>
<td>$291</td>
<td>$486</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Total</td>
<td>$1,620</td>
<td>$4,462</td>
<td>$6,492</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual TOTAL</td>
<td>$19,622</td>
<td>$50,544</td>
<td>$70,216</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Wage</td>
<td>$9,622</td>
<td>$26,777</td>
<td>$38,178</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seven of Allegan’s municipalities have over 50% of residents living below the ALICE threshold. The range of Allegan municipalities residents below the ALICE threshold is 23% to 62%.

The Community Resources Index from the ALICE study looks at the Key Indicators of Education Resources, Health Resources and Social Capital compared to other communities in Michigan.

Allegan County resources are gaining ground on our peers and 2-1-1 data shows how many individuals are calling for services help. There are still many unmet service needs in our community.

Figure 3

Figure 4

> Seven of Allegan’s municipalities have over 50% of residents living below the ALICE threshold. The range of Allegan municipalities residents below the ALICE threshold is 23% to 62%.

> The Community Resources Index from the ALICE study looks at the Key Indicators of Education Resources, Health Resources and Social Capital compared to other communities in Michigan.

> Allegan County resources are gaining ground on our peers and 2-1-1 data shows how many individuals are calling for services help. There are still many unmet service needs in our community.
When a call is received by 2-1-1 and the call specialists are able to give information on services that are available in their area, it is considered a met need. When a call specialist is unable to find a service for a caller, it is considered an unmet need. This, however, does not mean the caller meets the qualifications to receive the services. Some years indicate zero referrals indicating changes in funding streams for those services.

**FOOD**

Food – Immediate access to quality food and the ability to prepare it is a vital basic need, affecting the ability to work, learn and be healthy.

- The Feeding America ‘Map the Meal Gap’ 2016 study reported that there were 11,820 individuals that are ‘food insecure’ in Allegan County. Food insecurity means that at some point during the month the individual is at risk for skipping a meal or reducing the size of the meal due to lack of available food.
- Across the county the number of students that receive free and reduced price lunches at school since 2011 has stayed relatively steady at 40%. For these over 7,000 students the concern is for the meal availability in the evenings, weekends, holidays and during the summer. (Kids Count)
- The number of families receiving federal and state food support is considerably less than the number of food insecure individuals in Allegan County.

> More than 70% of referrals made in 2016 were for basic needs

> Almost 80% of the unmet needs were for basic needs

**Figure 5 (**2**)

**Figure 6 (**2**)

**Figure 7 (**3**)

**Figure 8 (**3**)
Food Insecurity Comments from Feeding America

"Food insecurity is slightly less prevalent in Allegan County than it is in the state of Michigan as a whole, though far too many Allegan County residents are still struggling to meet their basic needs. 10.5% of the population in Allegan County is food insecure, meaning they lack access, at times, to enough food for all members of their household to lead a healthy, active life. Among Allegan County children, 16.7%, or roughly 1 in 6, are food insecure. With the help of local partner agencies, Feeding America West Michigan provided 793,000 pounds of food in Allegan County in 2016."

SHELTER

Shelter - Immediate access to short-term, safe, affordable shelter is key to quality of life.

Economic Viability Dashboard, New Jersey, 2010 and 2015

11 = worse, 100 = better

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Housing Affordability</th>
<th>Job Opportunities</th>
<th>Community Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atossa</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alger</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegan</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> The Housing Affordability Dashboard shows on a scale of 0-100 (with higher numbers meaning conditions are better than in other parts of the state) shows Allegan with a 2010 score of 74, a drastic improvement over the 2010 recession number of 42.

> However, being a comparative number, this doesn’t mean we have no housing issues.

> Although this reason to be optimistic, the Allegan County gap in affordable rental units is 5,354 units, with more than 1 in 3 renters paying more than 30% (housing burden) of their income to housing. In some communities in Allegan County, more than half of the population in “housing burden.”

| Allegan | 33,215 | 39% | 16% | 8,864 | 60% | 36% | 5,554 | 2-Year |

A 2015 Allegan County Early Childhood survey reported that 25% of parents of young children viewed housing affordability as a top 3 issue in the community they were most concerned about.

Breakdown of PIT Homeless

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Houses</th>
<th>Emergency Sheltered Clients</th>
<th>Transitional Housing Sheltered Clients</th>
<th>Unsheltered Clients</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17 HH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adults 18-24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two of the individuals in this count are considered “chronically Homeless veterans”
There is no data related to how many individuals are sheltered in emergency shelters in Allegan County for a very simple reason – there are no traditional emergency homeless shelters in our county. Clients needing emergency shelter for homelessness (outside of domestic abuse shelter) are sent to Ottawa or Kalamazoo Counties. Theresa Bray, President of Allegan County Community Foundation provided the following discussion on the need for homeless shelters in Allegan County:

Allegan County has never had a homeless shelter. In part, because of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness; which dictated that future funding would be available for those shelters that were in existence prior to the Plan. The idea that no funds could be awarded from the state made it difficult to plan for a sustainable shelter.

There are a number of reasons why a shelter would be an asset to our homeless population in Allegan County.

Geographically:
A typical example is one where the client does not have transportation. Caseworkers may spend 2-3 hours getting to 1-2 clients each day. This cuts down on the amount of time and frequency that can be spent with each client and often times causes the caseworker to lose contact with the client because they have to move around so as not to remain in one place for fear of being arrested.

Safety:
The lack of a shelter in Allegan County results in referrals to either Holland, Grand Rapids or Kalamazoo. When transportation isn’t available or gas money is not available, we have people sleeping in the forests and fields. Numerous studies have shown increased health concerns in the homeless population. Last year we had a gentleman, his girlfriend and their dog living in a storage unit in Plainwell during brutal winter months. We knew about it - provided services of food and housing search, even dog food - but were unable to get them out of the storage unit. We have a couple who have been living in their van for three years. They shower at Love INC in Hamilton, receive food from local pantries, have been involved with housing services – but due to mental illness, choose to stay on the streets. We recently placed a family of four, two teenage sons, in a hotel for four nights. The night before we housed them in the hotel, they were sleeping in a bed on a mattress with mouse droppings. Both parents work full-time and earn minimum wage. We have had numerous single moms call for help from state/parks. Even though they go through an intake process, the wait list is 6 months long for housing in Allegan County.

Care Delays: Renewed Hope has seen homeless clients who don’t have health insurance and their symptoms/injuries/illnesses are considerably advanced. Untreated diabetes, infections, pneumonia and other chronic health issues are quite common in the homeless population.

Dignity:
As if being homeless wasn’t bad enough, it is typical for a homeless person to be sent to two or three places (by phone or in person) before they reach the HARA - to be told there is no housing available. Even the idea of having clients call additional service providers, results in the loss of minutes on cell phones.

More than a shelter:
If there were a shelter in Allegan County the homeless would have greater access to caseworkers, employment training, employment opportunities, disability filing, veteran’s services and so much more. A shelter in Allegan County would have the goal of moving people out of poverty. Both a gift to the client and the community.
TRANSPORTATION

Transportation – Consistent, reliable access to transportation to activities of daily living is essential quality of life.

The services currently available in Allegan County are:

Allegan County Transportation (ACT): Serving Allegan County since 2000. Their mission is to enhance and promote economic development and serve the transportation needs of Allegan County by providing safe, reliable, barrier-free travel. Allegan County Transportation has a reservation based service that will come to your home or place of work. ACT connects people to jobs and services in designated areas of Allegan County. In addition to the general public service, Job Access, and Specialized Services, ACT also provides contracted service to several human service agencies. The goal is to meet the individual needs of people in the county who need transportation to and from medical appointments, or whatever their needs might be.

Please call (269) 673-4229.

Allegan County Senior Services: Provides transportation to seniors, age 60 and older, persons with disabilities and veterans for medical and legal appointments, grocery shopping and errands. Door-to-door service is provided (depending on the mobility level of the senior) by volunteer drivers or a wheelchair friendly bus. Please allow 3-5 business days in advance of your request. Rides are prioritized using the following criteria: Medical appointments, nutritional appointments, legal appointments, and shopping and errands. Please call (269) 686-5164.

Community Action of Allegan County (CAAC): Volunteer drivers are available to drive seniors aged 60 and older to and from appointments in order of priority for medical, legal, nutritional or social purposes. Volunteer drivers are able to drive seniors to out of county medical appointments when necessary and provide door to door services. Requests should be given at least 48 hours in advance. Community Action of Allegan provides transportation for all of Allegan County. All transportation clients should contact Allegan County Senior Services.

Please call (269) 673-5472.

Interurban Transit Authority (ITA): Interurban is a demand response public bus system providing transportation for the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas and in Saugatuck Township. Customers may request a ride anytime during business hours. The ride can be scheduled as early as in 15 minutes, or you can make a reservation for a specific time. We offer curb to curb service – we pick you up and drop you off anywhere in our service area.

Please call (269) 857-1418.

Macatawa Area Express (MAX Transit): A small urban transit system that serves the greater Holland/Zweland area with hourly fixed bus routes and complementary reserved ride demand response service for eligible passengers. Our mission is to create a sustainable transportation system to be used by all residents of the Macatawa area with linkages to other transit systems. Please call (616) 355-1010.
Volunteer Driver Pool

The Allegan County Senior Millage in partnership with Michigan Department of Transportation provides funding for seniors and persons with disabilities who are able to be safely transported in a personal vehicle. This program matches customers with volunteers who transport customers in their personal vehicles to and from appointments that support them in remaining independent in the community.

**BASIC NEEDS**

**EXPLOITATION, ABUSE & NEGLECT**

A 2015 Allegan County Early Childhood survey reported that 34% of parents of young children viewed Child abuse/neglect as a top 3 issue in the community they were most concerned about.

Although economic conditions may impact the increase of neglect on child physical abuse cases, there is no indication that economic conditions play a role in the increase of child sexual abuse. Experts agree that the increased efforts of prevention and awareness helps adults to recognize the signs of child sexual abuse and teaches children how to tell safe adults about abuse they may be suffering.

Nationally, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted by the time they reach the age of 18. Safe Harbor Children’s Advocacy Center provides a safe place for an average of 175 children and teenagers to share their story of abuse and to participate in counseling, medical body safety exams, and advocacy services.

**Prevention, Intervention and Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Ages 0-17 In Investigated Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Ages 0-17 Confirmed Victims of Abuse And/Or Neglect, Ages 0-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confirmed Victims Of Abuse And/Or Neglect, Ages 0-5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Ages 0-17 In Out Of Home Care Abuse-Or Neglect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> A 2015 Allegan County Early Childhood survey reported that 34% of parents of young children viewed Child abuse/neglect as a top 3 issue in the community they were most concerned about.

> Although economic conditions may impact the increase of neglect on child physical abuse cases, there is no indication that economic conditions play a role in the increase of child sexual abuse. Experts agree that the increased efforts of prevention and awareness helps adults to recognize the signs of child sexual abuse and teaches children how to tell safe adults about abuse they may be suffering.

> Nationally, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted by the time they reach the age of 18. Safe Harbor Children’s Advocacy Center provides a safe place for an average of 175 children and teenagers to share their story of abuse and to participate in counseling, medical body safety exams, and advocacy services.
Seniors and Basic Needs - The basic needs of seniors differ from that of younger populations.

Senior Services spans across a very broad spectrum ranging from the Baby Boomers to the children of the Great Depression. Seniors represent the fastest growing demographic to our population. By the year 2020, senior citizens will represent 20% of the adult population, and that number will increase to 35% by 2050.

The Baby Boomers have always presented a challenge by their sheer volume. By the 1990s, Boomers represented one third of the total population. Between the years 1990 and 2020, the senior population is projected to increase by 74%. The current number of long term care and assisted living facilities, senior housing, and available supportive services are critically insufficient to meet the growing need.

The older senior population is living far longer than ever before. In 2014 the number of Americans over the age of 100 was 72,197. This is a 44% increase from 2000 when there were 50,281 centenarians.

The majority of funding that is earmarked to provide basic needs to the senior population who remain living independently in our community comes from the Older American Act programs, the MI Choice Waiver Programs and the Allegan County Senior Millage. These programs provide basic needs such as Home Delivered Meals, Congregate Meals, Adult Day Care, Senior Transportation, Personal Emergency Response Systems, and in-home supports such as personal care, homemaking and respite care.

Allegan County has taken a proactive approach to providing for its senior residents by implementing a Senior Millage in 2006, which currently collects approximately 2 million annually and supports approximately 1000 clients in remaining in their homes. However, even with the most recent increase in 2015 from .24 mil to .437 mils, wait lists remain for most of the millage services.

Under the current Federal administration, the proposed budget for 2018 includes drastic cuts to senior programs which could potentially result in seniors currently on the federally funded programs funneling toward the millage funding and causing a spike to the current wait lists.

MI Choice Waiver Program

Nursing homes used to be the only choice for older or disabled persons who needed help caring for themselves. One program run by Michigan Medicaid is the MI Choice Waiver Program. It began in 1992 as the Home and Community Based Services for the Elderly and Disabled (HCBS/ED) waiver program.

In 2016, the Area Agency on Aging served 163 clients, 134 of whom were over the age of 65.

93% were White; 1.8% were Hispanic; 1.8% were Black; with the remainder being multi-racial or American Indian.

64% are female.

46% are widowed, 22% are married, 20% are divorced.

Almost 1 in 5 live below the poverty level, and the average monthly income for all clients served was $1,529 per month, which would place a vast majority of the seniors served in the ALICE population.

68% live in a home or apartment; 28% live in assisted living/board & care; 4% live in a long term care facility.
This is the first Allegan County United Way Community Assessment to take a comprehensive county-wide look at issues facing our residents in health & human services. High volumes of data were gathered and analyzed to reach the findings in this document, and all sources are referenced so that you can take a deeper dive into the issues and data points that are relevant to you and your organization.

It is our intent to complete this study every three years and present it to multiple groups around the county to create a better understanding of community issues, foster collaboration, be used in grant applications and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of agencies working on these issues.

In the next report we hope to take an even deeper dive into the data, potentially filling gaps in pre-existing data with new research, conducting a household survey to hear the voice of our community members and hosting community conversations and focus groups to create a broader context for the data.

Initially the report will be printed in limited quantities but available for all to see and download on multiple partner websites. In the future we hope for an interactive, drill-down capacity to the online version.

Contact Allegan County United Way to get involved further in the following ways:

- Have the Community Assessment presented to your organization or group. We can provide presentations on the whole document or on specific sections.
- Sponsor the assessment so that we can expand the service in all the ways stated in the final thoughts section.
- Serve on the Steering Committee or Think Tanks for the next assessment.
- Have United Way facilitate a community conversation or collaboration in your area.

Funding for the 2017 Community Assessment was provided by:

- Allegan County Community Foundation
- Allegan County United Way
Office Location:
650 Grand Street,
Allegan, MI 49010
ph: 269.673.6545
tx: 269.686.5912

Mailing Address:
PO Box 1858
Holland, MI 49422