



# Blue Water Community Action

2023 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                                            |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <i>List of Tables</i> .....                                                                | 3  |
| <i>List of Figures</i> .....                                                               | 5  |
| <b>MODULE 1: What is a Community Assessment (CA)? How is it completed?</b> .....           | 7  |
| <b>Introduction</b> .....                                                                  | 7  |
| <b>Methodology: The Community Assessment Process</b> .....                                 | 10 |
| <b>MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to, and which community(ies) do they serve?</b> ..... | 13 |
| <b>State of the Grantee</b> .....                                                          | 13 |
| <b>Community Profile</b> .....                                                             | 18 |
| <b>Characteristics of HS/EHS Families (2022 PIR)</b> .....                                 | 19 |
| <b>MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?</b> .....          | 20 |
| <b>Population and Demographic Data</b> .....                                               | 20 |
| <i>Population Growth and Change</i> .....                                                  | 20 |
| <i>Race, Ethnicity, Sex, and Age</i> .....                                                 | 24 |
| <i>Immigrants and Refugees</i> .....                                                       | 26 |
| <i>Language</i> .....                                                                      | 28 |
| <i>Religion</i> .....                                                                      | 29 |
| <i>Household Characteristics</i> .....                                                     | 30 |
| <i>Veteran Population</i> .....                                                            | 32 |
| <i>Senior Population/Population above 65 Years</i> .....                                   | 34 |
| <b>Socioeconomic Status</b> .....                                                          | 36 |
| <i>Education</i> .....                                                                     | 36 |
| <i>Financial Assets and Income</i> .....                                                   | 40 |
| <i>Federal Assistance Benefits</i> .....                                                   | 46 |
| <b>Poverty</b> .....                                                                       | 49 |
| <b>Economic Features and Trends</b> .....                                                  | 55 |
| <b>Housing and Homelessness</b> .....                                                      | 58 |
| <i>Affordable Housing and Housing Shortage</i> .....                                       | 58 |
| <i>Utilities</i> .....                                                                     | 62 |
| <i>Housing Mobility</i> .....                                                              | 64 |
| <i>Homelessness</i> .....                                                                  | 67 |
| <b>Communication and Transportation</b> .....                                              | 70 |
| <i>Access to Internet and Computer Devices</i> .....                                       | 70 |
| <i>Community Library Connection</i> .....                                                  | 71 |
| <i>Vehicle Ownership</i> .....                                                             | 72 |
| <i>Public Transportation</i> .....                                                         | 72 |

# Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

## Table of Contents

|                                                                             |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Disabilities .....</b>                                                   | <b>73</b>  |
| <i>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).....</i>              | <i>73</i>  |
| <i>Michigan School System .....</i>                                         | <i>74</i>  |
| <b>Health and Wellness .....</b>                                            | <b>76</b>  |
| <i>Environmental Factors.....</i>                                           | <i>76</i>  |
| <i>Health Insurance and Access to Care .....</i>                            | <i>78</i>  |
| <i>Mental Health .....</i>                                                  | <i>81</i>  |
| <i>Immunizations .....</i>                                                  | <i>83</i>  |
| <i>Prevalent Health Problems .....</i>                                      | <i>84</i>  |
| <i>Leading Causes of Death .....</i>                                        | <i>86</i>  |
| <i>Maternal and Infant Health.....</i>                                      | <i>87</i>  |
| <b>Nutrition .....</b>                                                      | <b>90</b>  |
| <i>Public Assistance Programs .....</i>                                     | <i>90</i>  |
| <i>Food Insecurity.....</i>                                                 | <i>92</i>  |
| <b>Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).....</b>                            | <b>94</b>  |
| <i>Prevalence of Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse .....</i>                        | <i>94</i>  |
| <i>Child Maltreatment and Foster Care.....</i>                              | <i>95</i>  |
| <b>Potential Need and Cost of Child Care .....</b>                          | <b>96</b>  |
| <b>MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)? .....</b> | <b>97</b>  |
| Federal- and/or State-Funded Preschool Programs .....                       | 97         |
| Child Care Financial Assistance .....                                       | 99         |
| Michigan Licensed Child Care Programs .....                                 | 100        |
| Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships .....          | 104        |
| <b>MODULE 5: Are we providing services in the right locations? .....</b>    | <b>118</b> |
| Geographic Location of Eligible Children and Families .....                 | 118        |
| <b>MODULE 6: What are the residents of the community(ies) saying? .....</b> | <b>121</b> |
| Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families Community .....       | 121        |
| <i>Parent and Client Survey Responses.....</i>                              | <i>121</i> |
| <i>Focus Groups.....</i>                                                    | <i>123</i> |
| <b>Consultant Observations and Conclusions.....</b>                         | <b>129</b> |
| <b>Appendices .....</b>                                                     | <b>133</b> |
| <i>Appendix A: Client/Family Needs Survey .....</i>                         | <i>134</i> |
| <i>Appendix B: Focus Group Questions.....</i>                               | <i>136</i> |
| <b>End Notes .....</b>                                                      | <b>137</b> |

# Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

## Table of Contents

### List of Tables

|                                                                                                           |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table 1: U.S. Census Data: ACS 1-Year and 5-Year Estimate Features .....                                  | 12 |
| Table 2: St. Clair County.....                                                                            | 18 |
| Table 3: Head Start Enrollment (2022 PIR) .....                                                           | 19 |
| Table 4: Early Head Start Enrollment (2022 PIR) .....                                                     | 19 |
| Table 5: Population Change (2010-20) .....                                                                | 20 |
| Table 6: Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change (2010-20) .....                      | 20 |
| Table 7: Population Estimates by Race (2020) .....                                                        | 25 |
| Table 8: Population by Sex and Age (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                      | 25 |
| Table 9: U.S. Annual Refugees Admitted (2020-22) .....                                                    | 26 |
| Table 10: Native and Foreign-Born Population (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                            | 27 |
| Table 11: Language Spoken by Population Ages 5-17 in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....            | 28 |
| Table 12: Language Spoken by Population Ages 18+ in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....             | 28 |
| Table 13: Linguistic Isolation (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                          | 28 |
| Table 14: Religious Traditions of Michigan (2022) .....                                                   | 29 |
| Table 15: Total Households (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                              | 30 |
| Table 16: Grandparents Living with and Responsible for Own Grandchildren (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)..... | 31 |
| Table 17: Veteran Population (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                            | 32 |
| Table 18: Veteran Population in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                 | 32 |
| Table 19: Senior Population (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                             | 34 |
| Table 20: Educational Attainment (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                        | 36 |
| Table 21: Educational Attainment - High School Graduate or Higher (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....       | 37 |
| Table 22: Student Membership by Race/Ethnicity (Spring 2023) .....                                        | 38 |
| Table 23: English Language Learners (2022-23) .....                                                       | 38 |
| Table 24: Economically Disadvantaged Students (Fall 2022) .....                                           | 39 |
| Table 25: State and District Graduation Rates (2021-22).....                                              | 39 |
| Table 26: State and District Dropout Rates (2021-22).....                                                 | 39 |
| Table 27: Household Income (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....                                               | 40 |
| Table 28: Average Weekly Wages: Private Occupational Sector (2022, Q4).....                               | 41 |
| Table 29: Average Weekly Wages: Private Occupational Sector (2022, Q4).....                               | 42 |
| Table 30: Asset and Liquid Asset Poverty (2021).....                                                      | 43 |
| Table 31: Unbanked and Underbanked Households (2021).....                                                 | 44 |
| Table 32: Family Budget Calculator (2022) .....                                                           | 45 |
| Table 33: SSI Recipients by Age (2021) .....                                                              | 46 |
| Table 34: EITC (December 2022).....                                                                       | 48 |
| Table 35: Poverty (2021) .....                                                                            | 49 |
| Table 36: Extreme Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                               | 50 |
| Table 37: Women Who Had a Birth in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                              | 52 |
| Table 38: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                  | 53 |
| Table 39: Number of Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty by Race (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                | 53 |
| Table 40: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty by Ethnicity (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                     | 54 |
| Table 41: St. Clair County Industries and Occupations (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                   | 57 |
| Table 42: St. Clair County: Top Employers (Date Retrieved: Sept. 6, 2023) .....                           | 57 |
| Table 43: Occupied Housing Characteristic (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                               | 58 |
| Table 44: Fair Market Rental Value vs. Income (2021).....                                                 | 60 |
| Table 45: House Heating Fuel (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                            | 62 |
| Table 46: HUD Programs (2022) .....                                                                       | 66 |
| Table 47: Point-in-Time Count (2022).....                                                                 | 67 |
| Table 48: Homeless Youth (2021-22).....                                                                   | 67 |
| Table 49: Homeless Students (2019-21) .....                                                               | 68 |
| Table 50: Vehicle Ownership (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....                                              | 72 |
| Table 51: IDEA Part C: Early Intervention, Ages 0-2 (2021-22).....                                        | 73 |
| Table 52: IDEA Part B: Child Count, Ages 3-5 (2021-22) .....                                              | 73 |

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### Table of Contents

|                                                                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Table 53: IEP Enrollment (Fall 2022) .....                                                 | 74  |
| Table 54: Special Education (Fall 2022) .....                                              | 74  |
| Table 55: Public Water Systems (2023) .....                                                | 77  |
| Table 56: Medicaid-Eligible Cases and Recipients (2023) .....                              | 78  |
| Table 57: Health Professional Shortage Areas (July 2023) .....                             | 80  |
| Table 58: Mental Health Risk Assessment (2023) .....                                       | 81  |
| Table 59: National Survey on Children’s Health (2020-21) .....                             | 84  |
| Table 60: Leading Causes of Death (2021) .....                                             | 86  |
| Table 61: Teen Births and Fertility Rates, 15–19-Year-Olds (2021) .....                    | 87  |
| Table 62: Prenatal Health Care (2021) .....                                                | 88  |
| Table 63: Infant Mortality (2021) .....                                                    | 89  |
| Table 64: Food Assistance Program (2023) .....                                             | 90  |
| Table 65: WIC State Participation (2021-22) .....                                          | 91  |
| Table 66: National School Lunch Program (Fall 2022) .....                                  | 91  |
| Table 67: Food Insecurity (2021) .....                                                     | 92  |
| Table 68: Drug- and Alcohol-Induced Deaths (2021) .....                                    | 94  |
| Table 69: Children Ages 0-17 Years in Investigated Families (2022) .....                   | 95  |
| Table 70: Confirmed Victims of Abuse and/or Neglect (2022) .....                           | 95  |
| Table 71: Children Ages Birth to 17 in Out-of-Home Care (2022) .....                       | 95  |
| Table 72: Children Under Age 6, Parent(s) in Labor Force (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) ..... | 96  |
| Table 73: Child Development and Care (July 2023) .....                                     | 99  |
| Table 74: Child Care Centers in St. Clair County .....                                     | 103 |
| Table 75: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                   | 118 |
| Table 76: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty by Census Tract (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....   | 120 |

# Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

## Table of Contents

### List of Figures

|                                                                                                           |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Figure 1: Population Change (2010-20) .....                                                               | 20  |
| Figure 2: Net Migration Flows: St. Clair County (2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                         | 21  |
| Figure 3: Population Change by Race (2010-20) .....                                                       | 22  |
| Figure 4: Population Change by Ethnicity (2010-20) .....                                                  | 23  |
| Figure 5: Population Estimates by Race (2020) .....                                                       | 24  |
| Figure 6: Population Estimates by Ethnicity (2020) .....                                                  | 25  |
| Figure 7: The American Religious Landscape (2020) .....                                                   | 29  |
| Figure 8: Households with Children < Age 18 (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                             | 30  |
| Figure 9: Grandchildren Living with Grandparent Householder (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....             | 31  |
| Figure 10: Age Distribution of Veterans (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                 | 32  |
| Figure 11: Disability Status of Veterans in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                     | 33  |
| Figure 12: Veteran Employment Status (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                    | 33  |
| Figure 13: Disability Status of Senior Citizens (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                         | 34  |
| Figure 14: Senior Citizens Employment Status (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                            | 35  |
| Figure 15: Population with a BA Degree or Higher (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                        | 36  |
| Figure 16: Student Membership by Race/Ethnicity (Spring 2023) .....                                       | 38  |
| Figure 17: Average Weekly Wages: Private Occupational Sector (2022, Q4) .....                             | 41  |
| Figure 18: SSI Recipients by Age (2021) .....                                                             | 46  |
| Figure 19: Poverty (2021) .....                                                                           | 49  |
| Figure 20: Poverty by Race/Ethnicity (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                    | 50  |
| Figure 21: Poverty by Educational Attainment (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                            | 51  |
| Figure 22: Population in Poverty by Employment Status (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                   | 51  |
| Figure 23: Families in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                          | 52  |
| Figure 24: Racial Proportion Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....               | 53  |
| Figure 25: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty by Ethnicity (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                    | 54  |
| Figure 26: Occupied Housing Characteristic (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                              | 58  |
| Figure 27: Cost-Burdened Households (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                     | 59  |
| Figure 28: Owner-Occupied Households: Severely Cost-Burdened Households (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) ..... | 59  |
| Figure 29: Renter-Occupied Households: Severely Cost-Burdened by Income (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) ..... | 60  |
| Figure 30: FMR of Two-Bedroom Home vs. Income (2021) .....                                                | 61  |
| Figure 31: House Heating Fuel (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                           | 62  |
| Figure 32: Households Without Internet by Income (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                        | 70  |
| Figure 33: Special Education (Fall 2022) .....                                                            | 75  |
| Figure 34: Population Without Health Insurance Coverage (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                 | 78  |
| Figure 35: Mental Health Risk Assessment Rates per 100,000 Residents (2023) .....                         | 82  |
| Figure 36: Leading Causes of Death (2021) .....                                                           | 86  |
| Figure 37: Birth Rates per 1,000 Women (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                                  | 87  |
| Figure 38: Babies with Low and Very Low Birthweight Using the Kessner Index (2021) .....                  | 88  |
| Figure 39: Child Food Insecurity in United States (2021) .....                                            | 92  |
| Figure 40: Child Food Insecurity in Michigan (2021) .....                                                 | 92  |
| Figure 41: State Progress Towards Universal Preschool (2021-22) .....                                     | 97  |
| Figure 42: United States: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                  | 118 |
| Figure 43: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty by Census Tract (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates) .....                 | 119 |

### Helpful Hints

A green box provides a definition or context for a term. Sources are provided as applicable.

An orange box provides detailed information that expounds on the data to give context. Sources are provided as applicable.

A gray box includes pertinent information and notes from the writers of this Community Assessment.

A blue box provides additional analysis from the writers of this Community Assessment.

A yellow box provides additional community resources. Links are provided as applicable.

## MODULE 1: WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT (CA)? HOW IS IT COMPLETED?

### Introduction

A Community Assessment is a tool to make informed program decisions, to determine the types of services most needed by families and children, and to help set long- and short-term program objectives. Head Start / Early Head Start (HS/EHS) and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) leadership staff study the most important changes in the communities and counties they serve on a regular basis. However, the Community Assessment is the formal and far-reaching process utilized to accomplish this. HS/EHS grantees must conduct a comprehensive Community Assessment every five years and update it annually, while CSBG programs are required to conduct a Community Assessment every three years.

---

### *Head Start Performance Standards*

Source: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-11-determining-community-strengths-needs-resources>

#### *1302.11 Determining community strengths, needs, and resources.*

***(b) Community-wide strategic planning and needs assessment (community assessment).*** (1) *To design a program that meets community needs, and builds on strengths and resources, a program must conduct a community assessment at least once over the five-year grant period. The community assessment must use data that describes community strengths, needs, and resources and include, at a minimum:*

*(i) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:*

*(A) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A);*

*(B) Children in foster care; and*

*(C) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;*

*(ii) The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;*

*(iii) Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;*

*(iv) Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served;*

*(v) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and,*

*(vi) Strengths of the community.*

*(2) A program must annually review and update the community assessment to reflect any significant changes, including increased availability of publicly funded pre-kindergarten (including an assessment of how the pre-kindergarten available in the community meets the needs of the parents and children served by the program,*



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 1: What is a Community Assessment (CA)? How is it completed?

#### Introduction

and whether it is offered for a full school day), rates of family and child homelessness, and significant shifts in community demographics and resources.

(3) A program must consider whether the characteristics of the community allow it to include children from diverse economic backgrounds that would be supported by other funding sources, including private pay, in addition to the program's eligible funded enrollment. A program must not enroll children from diverse economic backgrounds if it would result in a program serving less than its eligible funded enrollment.

---

#### CSBG Community Assessment Organizational Standards

Source: <https://nascsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/cna20checklist20final20may202017.pdf>

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Standard 3.1</b> | The organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past three years.                                                                                                    |
| <b>Standard 3.2</b> | As part of the community assessment, the organization collects and includes current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for their service area(s). |
| <b>Standard 3.3</b> | The organization collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment.                                                          |
| <b>Standard 3.4</b> | The community assessment includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed.                                                                     |
| <b>Standard 3.5</b> | The governing board formally accepts the completed community assessment.                                                                                                                              |

#### Organizational Standards Related to the Community Assessment

The following standards, while not in the community assessment category, are related to conducting a needs assessment. These standards are included in the following categories:

- Consumer Input and Involvement
- Community Engagement
- Strategic Planning

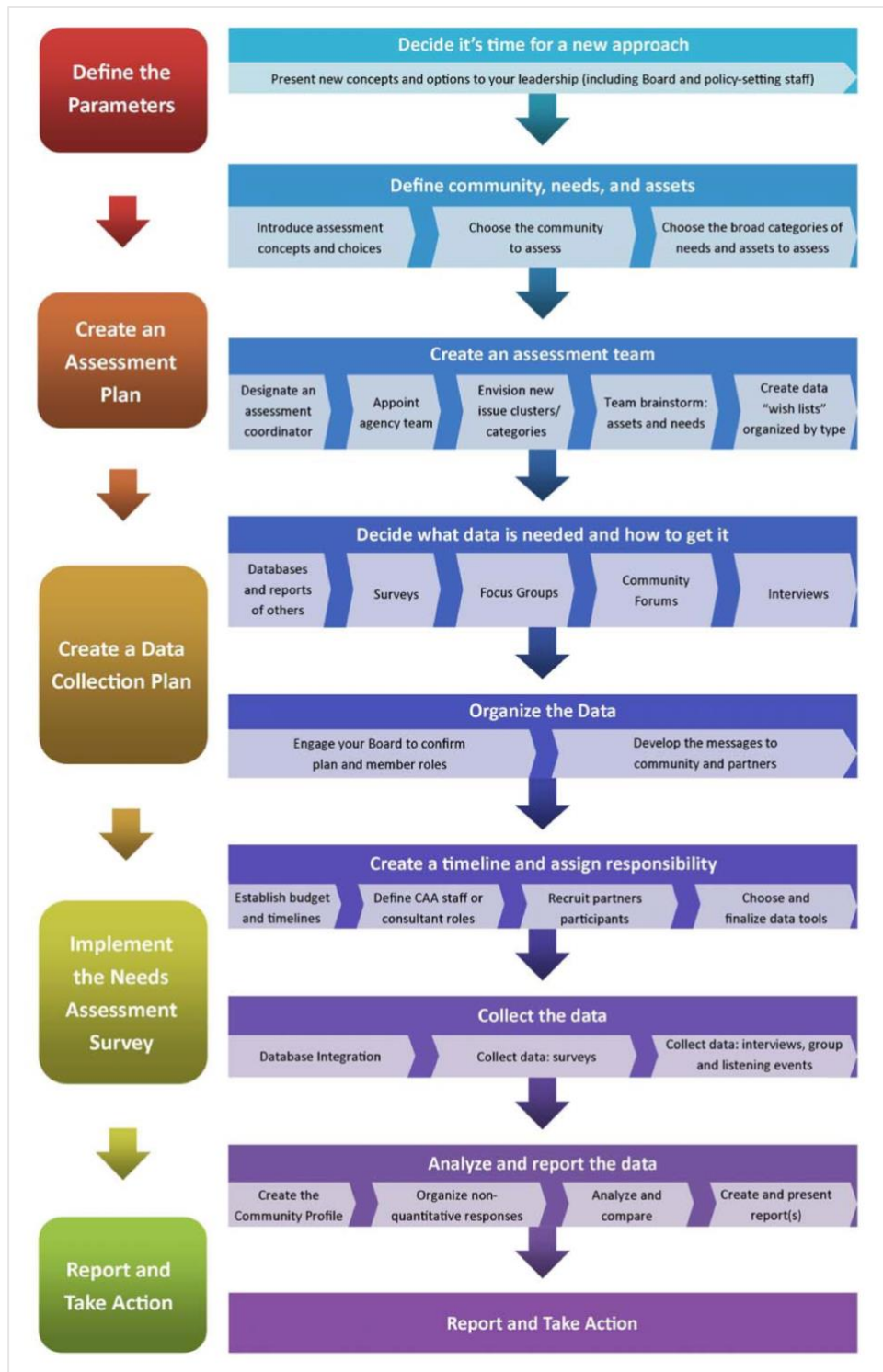
|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Standard 1.2</b> | The organization analyzes information collected directly from low-income individuals as part of the community assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Standard 2.2</b> | The organization utilizes information gathered from key sectors of the community in assessing needs and resources during the community assessment process or other times. These sectors would include at minimum: community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, private sector, public sector, and educational institutions. |

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 1: What is a Community Assessment (CA)? How is it completed?

#### Introduction

The [National Association for State Community Services Programs' Community Action Guide to Comprehensive Community Needs Assessments](#) offers the following logic model for completing a Community Assessment:



### **Methodology: The Community Assessment Process**

This Community Assessment offers detailed information about numerous topics, as well as an examination of the agency's strengths and barriers relative to delivery of services to clients. This is a comprehensive collection and analysis of key indicators to evaluate the needs and characteristics of eligible Head Start/Early Head Start children and families and Community Services Block Grant clients. This report not only meets the agency's federal requirements, but it becomes an integral part of the program's planning, implementation, and evaluation process.

Per the HS/EHS Performance Standards, every year after the comprehensive analysis, a follow-up assessment becomes the latest baseline to identify current community needs, design new plans, choose additional community partners, develop strategic collaborations, evaluate progress of past interventions, and make relevant decisions about program improvement changes expeditiously. Per the CSBG federal requirements, every three years the agency conducts a comprehensive collection and analysis of key indicators to evaluate the needs and characteristics of the community.

A consulting organization, [mano-Y-ola](#), facilitated this Community Assessment process, which focused on promoting the effective participation of agency staff members, as well as helping in the identification and organization of the best data sources to comply with Community Services Block Grant requirements and the [Head Start Performance Standards](#). Prior to the collection and analysis of the required data, the consultants and the agency director agreed to strategic priorities on data collection and analysis that are relevant to current issues and program priorities.

The Community Assessment methodology focuses on different levels of analysis. The following components of the Community Assessment represent key methods utilized to complete this report:

- *Review of most recent secondary data on indicators that have an impact on the agency and its service delivery model(s). (Below we offer a rationale and brief description for the use of Census Data: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.)*

The Community Assessment includes all the necessary and required topics established by the [Office of Head Start](#). It also fulfills [Community Service Block Grant](#) requirements and is "the first phase of the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Cycle, grounding and guiding the work to develop and implement programs and services that lift families and communities out of poverty." Data collection and analysis may include, but is not limited to, the Program Information Report (PIR) data, family partnership agreements, child/family application data, child screening and outcomes data, census data, local and state planning department reports, state department data, local interagency committee reports, data from local school districts, child care resource and referral agencies, agencies serving children with disabilities, health care providers, and social service providers.

- *Development and utilization of additional assessments, to include data observed or collected directly from firsthand experience using such methods as attitude / perception surveys, key informant interviews, community forums, and/or focus group interviews.*

The agency leadership, together with mano-Y-ola's team, identifies and employs methods to collect data from different sources and service areas. These include client and/or family needs assessment surveys, key informant surveys, and focus groups.

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 1: What is a Community Assessment (CA)? How is it completed?

*Methodology: The Community Assessment Process*

1. The *Client / Family Needs Survey* is administered to identify needs and strengths of clients who received services through the Community Service Block Grant, the Weatherization Assistance Program, and eligible Head Start and Early Head Start families in the service area (see [Appendix A: Client / Family Needs Survey](#)).
2. A *Focus Group* was conducted among local community leaders and partners, generating important implications and connections to program needs and serving to generate strategic discussions in relation to program improvement based on empirical data (see [Appendix B: Focus Group Questions](#)).
3. A *Key Informant Survey* was administered to CSBG clients who were not able to participate in the focus group, but whose important feedback and expertise was incorporated into the synthesis and analysis of the focus group responses. The questions contained in this survey mirrored those asked during the focus group.

This year's Community Assessment enhances the agency's existing efforts by collecting, analyzing, illustrating, and narrating in a reader-friendly format both secondary data from reliable sources and primary data from clients and community experts. This assessment is intended to be utilized digitally as a living document with live links to the most recent and relevant data available at the time of this study. The data contained herein will be instrumental in enabling agency leadership to effectively develop strategic plans and priorities based on the actual needs of the community members they serve.

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 1: What is a Community Assessment (CA)? How is it completed?

Methodology: The Community Assessment Process

**Census Data: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate.** A predominant data source used for this report is the [U.S. Census Bureau's](#) 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate:

“The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey that provides data every year – giving communities the current information they need to plan investments and services. Information from the survey generates data that help determine how more than \$450 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year. In order to support local governments, communities, and federal programs, data was collected on the following topics: age and sex, race and ethnicity, family and relationships, income and benefits, health insurance, education, veteran status, disabilities, where you work and how you get there, and where you live and how much you pay for some essentials.”<sup>i</sup>

Table 1 is a chart describing the difference between 1-Year and 5-Year Estimates. Although the 5-Year Estimate is the “least current” data set, it is the *most reliable*, and it allows for comparison and analysis of all counties, townships, or census tracts, which are geographic levels necessary when conducting an analysis of various populations, and/or other needs and indicators for Head Start programs.

| 1-Year Estimates                                                          | 5-Year Estimates                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 months of collected data                                               | 60 months of collected data                                                                                                                                            |
| Data for areas with populations of 65,000+                                | Data for all areas                                                                                                                                                     |
| Smallest sample size                                                      | Largest sample size                                                                                                                                                    |
| Less reliable than 3-Year or 5-Year                                       | Most reliable                                                                                                                                                          |
| Most current data                                                         | Least current data                                                                                                                                                     |
| Annually released: 2005-present                                           | Annually released: 2009-present                                                                                                                                        |
| Best used when                                                            | Best used when                                                                                                                                                         |
| Currency is more important than precision;<br>Analyzing large populations | Precision is more important than currency; Analyzing very small populations; Examining tracts and other smaller geographies because 1-Year Estimates are not available |

**Table 1: U.S. Census Data: ACS 1-Year and 5-Year Estimate Features**

**NOTE:** Several reports refer to the number or percentage of women who had a birth in the past 12 months. The ACS 5-Year Estimates data set used in this Community Assessment provides an average of women who had a birth in the past 12 months from 2017 to 2021.

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to, and which community(ies) do they serve?

*State of the Grantee*

## MODULE 2: WHO DOES THIS CA BELONG TO, AND WHICH COMMUNITY(IES) DO THEY SERVE?

### State of the Grantee

*The State of the Grantee is a brief narrative written by the agency, about the agency and the community in which it operates; the remainder of the Community Assessment is written by mano-Y-ola LLC.*



In collaboration with the community and constituents, [Blue Water Community Action](#) is committed to identifying and responding to needs with programs and services, as well as advocacy, that will provide a positive impact on improving the quality of life for low-income members of the community.

Every three years, as mandated by two of its core funding streams Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Blue Water Community Action conducts a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment (CNA). Representing a critical component of the overall planning process, the CNA is developed to encourage strategic thinking about the agency's capacity to impact families and the community in a positive direction towards eliminating poverty.

### Our History

In 1964, The Great Society, as envisioned by President Lyndon Johnson, was a sweeping plan to improve the lives of all Americans, regardless of their circumstances. Inspired by President Kennedy and his New Frontier, Johnson pledged to fulfill his promise of equal opportunity for all by enacting several comprehensive changes within the federal government. In August of that same year, the Economic Opportunity Act was signed into law by President Johnson, creating the nationwide Community Action Network.

In 1963, shortly before he was assassinated, President Kennedy had asked his economic advisors to draw up some proposals to address the problem of American poverty. Johnson took up this charge after he succeeded Kennedy as President. In Johnson's first State of the Union address in 1964, he called for an unconditional war to defeat poverty. He expanded and revised the proposals given to Kennedy and developed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The act included a variety of initiatives including Head Start; Job Corps; Work-Study program for university students; VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) – a domestic version of the Peace Corps; Neighborhood Youth Corps; basic education, and adult job training and Community Action Programs (CAPS), which turned out to be the most controversial part of the package as it proposed the "**maximum feasible participation**" by poor people themselves to determine what would help them the most. CAPS were a radical departure from how government had run most social reform programs in the past.

Community Action is a coordinated effort to address the root effects of poverty and to, ultimately, move families and individuals to self-sufficiency, rather than foster dependency. There are now over 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Blue Water Community Action (BWCA), a 501(c) 3 private, non-profit community action agency, has been empowering people to become self-sufficient since 1964 through a variety of programs and services that have evolved over the years. BWCA has had many name changes over the years as well. Our agency was incorporated in 1979 and named Economic Opportunity Committee of St. Clair County, Inc. In 2008, we

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to, and which community(ies) do they serve?

#### State of the Grantee

became a dba (doing business as) with the name being Community Action Agency of St. Clair County. In 2013, we again changed our name to Blue Water Community Action.

BWCA is one of 28 community action agencies in the State of Michigan, and one of over 1,100 nationwide. Community Action Agencies are non-profit, private, and public organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's war on poverty. BWCA has over 55 years of history of successfully providing a variety of programs that assist low-income individuals, seniors, and families to become economically self-sufficient and advocating on their behalf. These programs have focused on early childhood education, parenting and relationship education, health and nutrition, new home construction, home repairs and weatherization, homebuyer and mortgage foreclosure prevention education, financial literacy education, a protective payee program, homelessness, and emergency assistance services.

BWCA operates primarily in St. Clair County, Michigan, with the Administration Office located in Port Huron Township. Some of BWCA's programs extend to surrounding counties and the Protective Payee program provides services for clients throughout Michigan.

A tri-partite board comprised of one-third consumer representatives, one-third elected officials or their designee, and one-third from the private sector oversees the operations of BWCA.

#### Mission

The Mission of Blue Water Community Action is to advocate for and provide individuals with limited income an opportunity to become socially and economically self-sufficient in their community.

#### Values Expressed Through Our Cultural Contract

- We treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- We are open and honest with each other.
- We encourage initiative and forward thinking.
- We set challenging, realistic goals and deliver on our commitments.
- We regularly communicate with each other on important issues and developments.
- We develop and leverage the abilities and perspectives of all individuals in our diverse organization.
- We make decisions that consider both the short-term and long-term needs of the agency and those we serve.
- We require and demonstrate ethical behavior and integrity in all our interactions at every level in the organization.

#### The BWCA Social Challenge

- To get low-income families to move from poverty and generational poverty to self-sufficiency. (Breaking the cycle through empowerment tools.)
- Empowering vulnerable families to create their own social change.



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to, and which community(ies) do they serve?

#### State of the Grantee

- Creating methods within our community for our people to be successful. (Look beyond individuals to community impact.)

#### The BWCA Unique Value Proposition

- We provide a holistic approach to helping our families. We have wrap-around services.
- We work with families on how to get out of poverty through their poverty education, as well as with the community.

#### Vision

By 2026...we aspire to be recognized as the leader in educating and empowering people while strengthening the community.

| Blue Water Community Action Programs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Housing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Economic Self-Sufficiency                                                                                                            | Health & Nutrition                                                                           | Other Programs                                                                                                                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Homebuyer Education and Counseling</li><li>• Foreclosure Prevention Counseling</li><li>• Weatherization</li><li>• Home Rehab &amp; Repair</li><li>• Housing Support – Housing Assessment Resource Agency (HARA)</li><li>• Financial Literacy</li><li>• Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Representative Payee</li><li>• Income Tax Preparation</li><li>• Utility Assistance</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food Assistance</li><li>• Personal Hygiene</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information and Referral</li><li>• Walk for Warmth</li><li>• Backpack Giveaway</li></ul> |

#### Number of Customers Served

- 2021-22 – 3,494 individuals and 1,527 households.
- 2022-23 – 2,559 individuals and 1,062 households.

#### Funded Enrollment and Delegations

- Head Start Enrollment (2022-23) – 251 children enrolled.
- Early Head Start Enrollment (2022-23) – 119 children enrolled.
- 2023-24 – Effective September 11, 2023, BWCA no longer has Head Start and Early Head Start programs.



### **Licensure, Accreditation, or Other Criteria That Demonstrate Commitment to the Highest Standards**

BWCA's Asset Development Department staff are all HUD-certified housing counselors. They are unable to perform housing counseling legally without this certification. After completing a rigorous application process, BWCA is now a HUD Local Housing Counseling Agency.

### **Information That Is Unique About BWCA**

BWCA offers representative payee services and financial management assistance. We help all who are experiencing financial obstacles, including those with disabilities, low-income, or receiving Social Security/Veterans benefits. BWCA is the only Community Action Agency that offers this service and is a payee that has been assigned by Social Security.

While other agencies may offer payment assistance to prevent foreclosure, there are normally income guidelines involved. BWCA offers one-on-one financial analysis and education to any client, without income guidelines, through the Foreclosure Prevention Counseling Program. This counseling is offered in hopes that the client will learn new ways to handle their finances and avoid financial hardship in the future. The Asset Development team will also assist the client with any available financial support program applications in which they might qualify and be an advocate for the client once the application is submitted.

For individuals wishing to purchase a house, there are agencies that offer down-payment assistance programs. Once again, BWCA offers one-on-one financial analysis and education to any client, without income guidelines, through the Pre-Purchase Counseling Program. A soft-pull tri-merge credit report and scores are provided as an educational tool to the client. A budget is made to help the client reduce debt, increase their savings, and determine home affordability. These sessions continue until the client is mortgage-ready or they decide not to purchase a home. The skills the clients learn remain with them for life.

Both services are offered at no cost to the client.

### **How BWCA Meets Unique Needs in the Community**

There is no men's shelter in our county. The Acting Executive Director and the HARA Coordinator sit on the Homeless Shelter Committee and the Housing Support Services Workgroup (HSSW) that is actively working on a solution to get a men's shelter up and running in St. Clair County. BWCA is also the fiduciary for the funds allocated by the City of Port Huron for the project.

BWCA is an active participant in the Housing Support Services Workgroup (HSSW) in locating a men's shelter for our community. A Community Initiative was developed in 2022. This is a high need in our community, as there is no shelter available for men in St. Clair County currently. BWCA was the fiduciary for the men's shelter when the temporary shelter was opened last winter. Staff are currently still active with the community in securing a new location that can be permanent in our county.

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to, and which community(ies) do they serve?

#### State of the Grantee

#### Collaboration

Community Services Coordinating Body – The Acting Executive Director is an active member of the community group. The mission of this group is: *Members of the St. Clair County Community Services Coordinating Body (CSCB) collaborate to strengthen our community and meet identified community needs.*

Continuum of Care – Local Planning Body – The HARA Manager is a member of the Governance Council at the state level. She was chosen by the St. Clair County Local Planning Body to represent our county. This group is a key partner with the HSSW in addressing the homeless situation in St. Clair County.

#### Local, State and Federal Partnerships

These are partnerships that BWCA has had in the past year few years.

##### Local

- City of Lapeer
- City of Marysville
- City of Mayville
- City of Port Huron
- Ira Township
- Kimball Township
- Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
- Offender Success
- Port Huron Housing Commission
- St. Clair County
- St. Clair County 31<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court – Family Division
- St. Clair County 72<sup>nd</sup> District Court
- St. Clair County Board of Commissioners
- St. Clair County Department of Health & Human Services
- St. Clair County Department of Veterans Affairs
- St. Clair County Health Department
- St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission

- St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- St. Clair County Probate Court
- St. Clair County Sherriff's Office
- St. Clair County WIC Program
- Village of Akron
- Village of Almont
- Village of Unionville

##### State

- Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (BCAEO)
- Michigan Department of Education (MDE)
- MSHDA Programs

##### Federal

- Department of Health and Human Services
- Internal Revenue Service – Washington, D.C.
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- HUD
- USDA

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to, and which community(ies) do they serve?

#### Community Profile

#### Community Profile

Michigan is in the Great Lakes region of the United States, bordered by Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio. Michigan is also connected to the Great Lakes – Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie – and borders Canada to its east. Michigan has a total area of nearly 97,000 square miles, which makes it the 11<sup>th</sup> largest state. The state is divided into 83 counties. The state capital is Lansing, and its largest city is Detroit.

The following table provides a general community profile of St. Clair County, including geography, weather, and local county government structure.

|                                |                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>County Seat</b>             | Port Huron                                                                                                           |
| <b>Area</b>                    | 837 sq. mi.                                                                                                          |
| <b>Bordering Counties</b>      | Lapeer<br>Macomb<br>Sanilac                                                                                          |
| <b>Cities / Municipalities</b> | Algonac<br>Marine City<br>Marysville<br>Memphis<br>Port Huron<br>Richmond<br>St. Clair<br>Yale                       |
| <b>Topography</b>              | Blue Water Area stretches into Lake Huron                                                                            |
| <b>Locale</b>                  | Urban: 60%<br>Rural: 40%                                                                                             |
| <b>Weather<sup>ii</sup></b>    | High: 56° F<br>Low: 41° F<br>Avg. Rain: 34"<br>Avg. Snow: 37"                                                        |
| <b>Government Structure</b>    | 7 County Commissioners maintain the budget; individual cities and townships are responsible for laws and ordinances. |

Table 2: St. Clair County

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to, and which community(ies) do they serve?

Characteristics of HS/EHS Families (2022 PIR)

#### Characteristics of HS/EHS Families (2022 PIR)



## Office of Head Start / Head Start Enterprise System

“The Office of Head Start (OHS) Program Information Report (PIR) provides comprehensive data on the services, staff, children, and families served by Head Start and Early Head Start programs nationwide. All grant recipients and delegates are required to submit a PIR for Head Start and Early Head Start programs.”<sup>iii</sup>

**Head Start:** During the 2021-22 program year, Head Start (HS) programs in the United States were funded to serve more than 586,000 preschool aged children; 542,033 were served that program year. In Michigan, HS programs were funded to serve 21,863 preschool-aged children, with the Blue Water Community Action program in St. Clair County funded to serve an enrollment of 230. More than 20,400 HS recipients were served statewide, of which 321 were served by the Blue Water Community Action program.

#### Head Start Enrollment (2022 PIR)

Source: Office of Head Start Enterprise System

|                                   | United States | Michigan | BWCA |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------|------|
| ACF Funded Enrollment             | 586,030       | 21,863   | 230  |
| Total Cumulative Enrollment       | 542,033       | 20,405   | 321  |
| Cumulative Enrollment of Children | 542,033       | 20,405   | 321  |

Table 3: Head Start Enrollment (2022 PIR)

[This report link](#) illustrates select 2022 Program Information Report (PIR) data, comparing the Blue Water Community Action data with data for programs in Michigan and the United States.

**Early Head Start:** During the 2021-22 program year, Early Head Start (EHS) programs in the United States were funded to serve more than 188,000 infants, toddlers, and pregnant women; more than 220,000 were served that program year. In Michigan, EHS programs were funded to serve 7,020 infants, toddlers, and pregnant women of which 114 were by the Blue Water Community Action program in St. Clair County. More than 8,400 EHS recipients were served statewide, of which 154 were served by the Blue Water Community Action program.

#### Early Head Start Enrollment (2022 PIR)

Source: Office of Head Start Enterprise System

|                                         | United States | Michigan | BWCA |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|----------|------|
| ACF Funded Enrollment                   | 188,828       | 7,020    | 114  |
| Total Cumulative Enrollment             | 221,771       | 8,427    | 154  |
| Cumulative Enrollment of Children       | 209,558       | 7,915    | 140  |
| Cumulative Enrollment of Pregnant Women | 12,213        | 512      | 14   |

Table 4: Early Head Start Enrollment (2022 PIR)

[The report link](#) illustrates select 2022 Program Information Report (PIR) data, comparing the Blue Water Community Action EHS data with data for programs in Michigan and the United States.

Note: All data was collected from the [HSES Enterprise System](#); some discrepancies are noted between the PDF reports released and the Excel Zip File Download. Data reflected in this section of the CA is collected from the 2022 Excel Zip File Download.

## MODULE 3: WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMMUNITY(IES) SERVED?

### Population and Demographic Data

#### Population Growth and Change

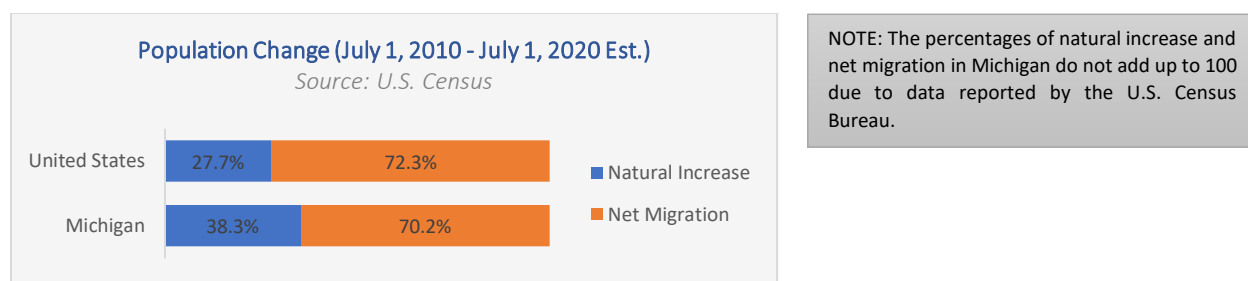
Based on the 2010 Census, the total population of Michigan was 9,883,640, down 0.6 percent from 9,938,444 in 2000. Census estimates from 2020 indicate that Michigan's population grew by 2 percent (compared with 7.4 percent for the United States) from 2010 to 2020, reaching more than 10 million residents. The population decreased in St. Clair County by 1.6 percent.

| <b>Population Change (2010-2020)</b> |                                           |                                           |                                                |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Source: U.S. Census</i>           |                                           |                                           |                                                |
|                                      | <b>Total Population<br/>(2010 Census)</b> | <b>Total Population<br/>(2020 Census)</b> | <b>Percent Population Change<br/>(2010-20)</b> |
| <b>United States</b>                 | 308,745,538                               | 331,449,281                               | 7.4%                                           |
| <b>Michigan</b>                      | 9,883,640                                 | 10,077,331                                | 2.0%                                           |
| <b>St. Clair County</b>              | 163,040                                   | 160,383                                   | -1.6%                                          |

**Table 5: Population Change (2010-20)**

To measure the components of population change over the 10-year period, data from the July 1, 2010, and July 1, 2020, estimates are used. Currently, only these July estimates include details of the population change with regard to natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration (both domestic and international migration).

The 10-year population change in the United States and Michigan was predominantly due to a natural increase (Figure 1, Table 6). Although Michigan experienced significant domestic out-migration from 2010 to 2020, a natural increase of more than 172,000 residents resulted in an overall population increase of nearly 89,000 residents over the 10-year period. St. Clair County's population decrease is a result of net natural decrease and domestic out-migration.



**Figure 1: Population Change (2010-20)**

| <b>Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change (July 1, 2010 – July 1, 2020, Estimates)</b> |                          |                         |                     |                     |                      |                           |                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Source: U.S. Census</i>                                                                                  |                          |                         |                     |                     |                      |                           |                                |
|                                                                                                             | <b>Population Change</b> | <b>Natural Increase</b> | <b>Total Births</b> | <b>Total Deaths</b> | <b>Net Migration</b> | <b>Domestic Migration</b> | <b>International Migration</b> |
| <b>United States</b>                                                                                        | 20,156,980               | <b>11,868,523</b>       | 39,021,585          | 27,153,062          | <b>8,288,457</b>     | N/A                       | 8,288,457                      |
| <b>Michigan</b>                                                                                             | 88,958                   | <b>172,101</b>          | 1,122,887           | 950,786             | <b>-81,718</b>       | -278,245                  | 196,527                        |
| <b>St. Clair County</b>                                                                                     | -3,395                   | <b>-1,937</b>           | 15,596              | 17,533              | <b>-1,404</b>        | -2,216                    | 812                            |

**Table 6: Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change (2010-20)**

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Population and Demographic Data

**Natural increase** of a population is calculated by subtracting the number of deaths from the number of births in a specific time period.

**Net migration** is calculated by adding net domestic migration (in- and out-migration within the United States) and net international migration (in- and out-migration from a country outside of the United States, including Puerto Rico).

#### *Inbound and Outbound Migration Flows*

The following figure shows the inbound and outbound flows of St. Clair County. The following data source allows for deeper analysis or exploration of the migration patterns: <https://flowsmapper.geo.census.gov/>.

Based on 2016-20 data, net inbound migration to St. Clair County was primarily from the following counties in Michigan: Macomb County (2,176), Saginaw County (602), and Sanilac County (418). Net outbound migration was predominantly to the following counties in Michigan: Macomb County (1,399), Wayne County (428), and Oakland County (344).

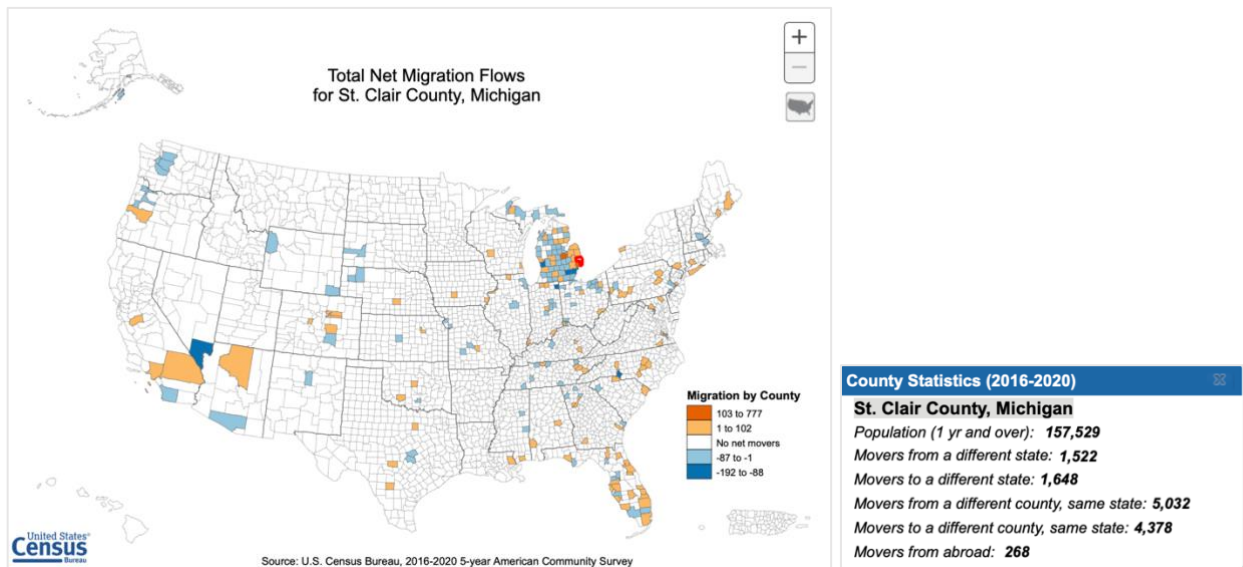


Figure 2: Net Migration Flows: St. Clair County (2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

**“Migration and Geographic Mobility** both refer to the movement of people from one location to another. Migration typically refers to moves that cross a boundary, such as a county or state line (including Puerto Rico) and is either domestic migration (movement within the U.S.) or international migration (movement between the U.S. and other countries). Mobility includes both short and long-distance moves.”

U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

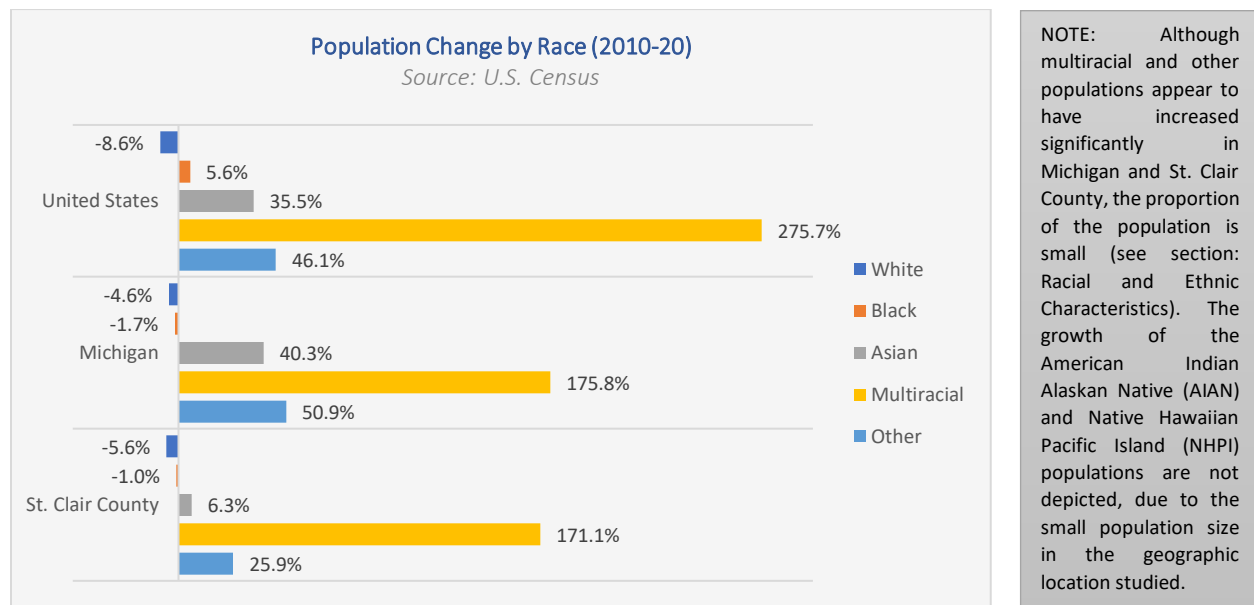
#### Population and Demographic Data

##### Population Change by Race/Ethnicity

Census data on race and ethnicity have been included as far back as the first census of 1790. “How these topics are measured, and statistics on them are collected and coded, has changed nearly every decade throughout the history of the census, reflecting social, political and economic factors.”<sup>iv</sup> Similar to the 2010 census, for the 2020 Census, participants were asked to self-identify their race and ethnicity, using two separate questions. Improvements to the way the questions were asked, as well as updates to data processing and coding has “enabled a more thorough and accurate depiction of how people self-identify, yielding a more accurate portrait of how people report their Hispanic origin and race within the context of a two-question format.”<sup>v</sup>

Although the overall population increased by 7.4 percent in the United States from 2010 to 2020, there are significant differences in the percentage increases for different races and ethnicities. For example, in the United States from 2010 to 2020, the White-only population (not combined with any other race) decreased by 8.6 percent, and the Black-only population increased by 5.6 percent. The Asian-only and multiracial (two or more) populations increased by 35.5 and 275.7 percent, respectively (Figure 3).

As previously stated, from 2010-2020 in Michigan the overall population grew by 2 percent and decreased in St. Clair County by 1.6 percent. The White population in Michigan and St. Clair County decreased by 4.6 and 5.6 percent, respectively; the Black population decreased by 1.7 and 1 percent, respectively. The multiracial population increased by 175.8 and 171.1 percent in Michigan and St. Clair County, respectively.



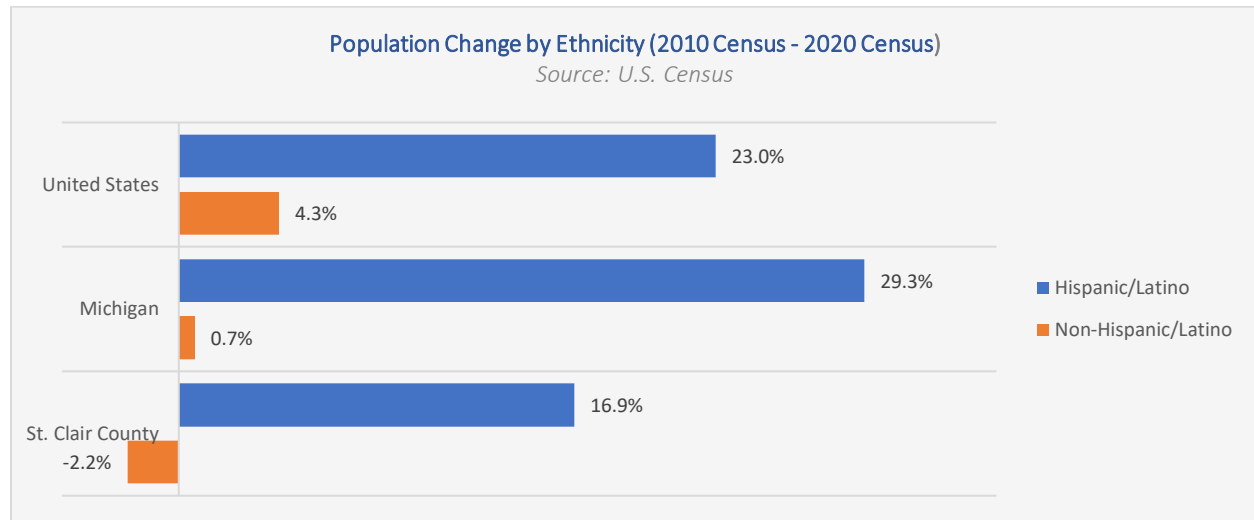
**Figure 3: Population Change by Race (2010-20)**

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Population and Demographic Data

In the United States, the Hispanic/Latino population increased by 23 percent over the 10-year period, and the non-Hispanic/Latino population grew by 4.3 percent (Figure 4). In Michigan and St. Clair County the Hispanic/Latino population grew by 29.3 and 16.9 percent, respectively; the non-Hispanic/Latino population grew by 0.7 percent in Michigan and decreased by 2.2 percent in St. Clair County.



**Figure 4: Population Change by Ethnicity (2010-20)**

The U.S. Census Bureau considers race and ethnicity to be two separate and distinct concepts.

**What is race?** “The Census Bureau defines race as a person’s self-identification with one or more social groups. An individual can report as White, Black or African American, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, or some other race. Survey respondents may report multiple races.”

**What is ethnicity?** “Ethnicity determines whether a person is of Hispanic origin or not. For this reason, ethnicity is broken out in two categories, Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. Hispanics may report as any race.”

U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov>

#### Race and Ethnicity Definitions

**White** refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

**Black or African American** refers to a person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

**American Indian or Alaska Native** refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

**Asian** refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

**Some Other Race** includes all other responses not included in the White, Black, or African American, American Indian, or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander race categories described above. Respondents reporting entries such as multiracial, mixed, interracial, or a Hispanic or Latino group (for example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or Spanish) in response to the race question are included in this category.

**Multiracial** includes people identifying themselves with two or more races.

**Hispanic or Latino** refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.”

U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov>



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

Population and Demographic Data

#### Race, Ethnicity, Sex, and Age

Note: The U.S. Census Bureau collects data on race and ethnicity for various products and reports. At a minimum, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires five categories: White, Black/African American, American Indian or Alaskan Native (AIAN), Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHPI).

Every 10 years, the Census Bureau conducts a decennial census count, which is a comprehensive count of the population. The decennial census uses seven race categories in its count, the five aforementioned categories required by the OMB as well as “Multiracial” and “Some Other Race.”

In addition to its decennial count, the Census Bureau produces an annual July 1<sup>st</sup> estimate of the population, and unlike the decennial census, this estimate only includes six race categories, excluding the “Some Other Race” category included every 10 years.

This community assessment currently uses the 2020 decennial census data to identify the race and ethnicity of the population studied, as well as the growth/change in race or ethnicity from 2010 to 2020. Please be careful not to compare race data included in this assessment to July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates. The different number of race categories greatly impacts the values. For example, according to the 2020 census, 61.6 percent of the population in the United States is White only, compared to the July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, estimates of 75.8 percent. The most significant difference between these two collection methods is the proportion of the population that self identifies as White, Multiracial, and Some Other Race.

#### United States: Calculating Race and Ethnicity

Source: U.S. Census

|                 | July 1, 2021, Estimates | 2020 Census |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| White           | 75.8%                   | 61.6%       |
| Black           | 13.6%                   | 12.4%       |
| Asian           | 6.1%                    | 6.0%        |
| AIAN            | 1.3%                    | 1.1%        |
| NHPI            | 0.3%                    | 0.2%        |
| Multiracial     | 2.9%                    | 10.2%       |
| Some Other Race | Not Reported            | 8.4%        |
| Hispanic/Latino | 18.9%                   | 18.7%       |

#### Race

In the United States, approximately 61.6 percent of the population identifies themselves as White only, 12.4 percent as Black only, 6 percent as Asian only, 10.2 percent as multiracial, and 8.4 percent identify as another race (Figure 5 and Table 7). In Michigan and St. Clair County, 73.9 and 90.1 percent of the population is White, respectively; 13.7 and 2.5 percent is Black, respectively; and 6.3 and 5.6 percent of the population, respectively, is multiracial.

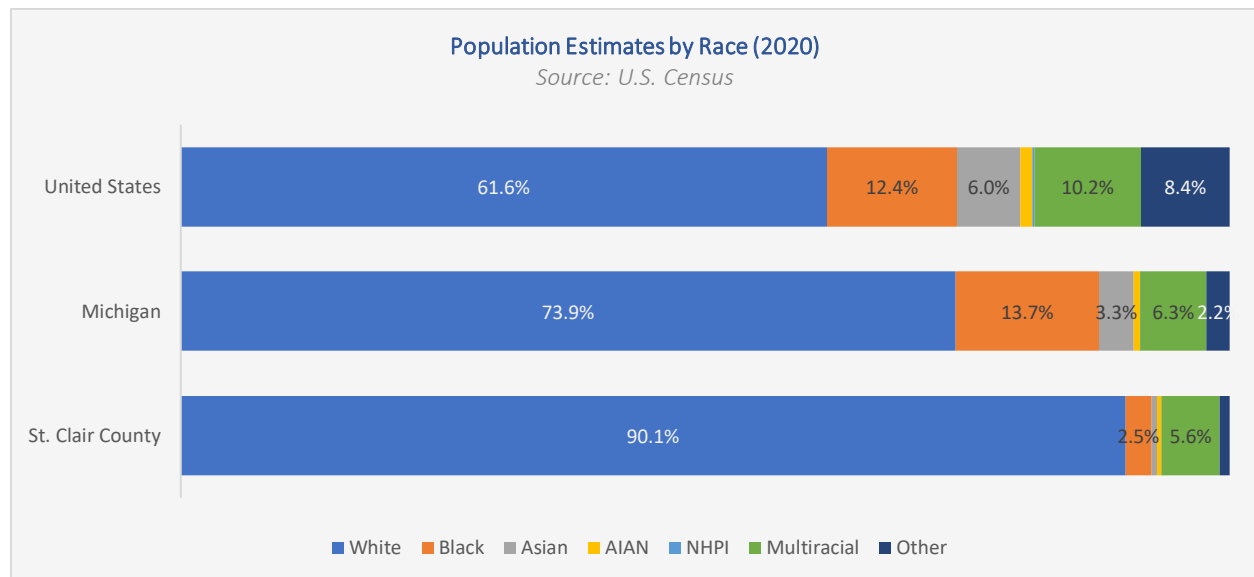


Figure 5: Population Estimates by Race (2020)

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Population and Demographic Data

##### Population Estimates by Race (2020)

Source: U.S. Census

|                  | White | Black | Asian | AIAN | NHPI  | Multiracial | Other |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------------|-------|
| United States    | 61.6% | 12.4% | 6.0%  | 1.1% | 0.2%  | 10.2%       | 8.4%  |
| Michigan         | 73.9% | 13.7% | 3.3%  | 0.6% | 0.0%* | 6.3%        | 2.2%  |
| St. Clair County | 90.1% | 2.5%  | 0.5%  | 0.4% | 0.0%* | 5.6%        | 0.9%  |

\* The total percent of the population that identifies as NHPI in Michigan is 0.03% and 0.01% in St. Clair County.

Table 7: Population Estimates by Race (2020)

#### Ethnicity

In the United States and Michigan, 18.7 and 5.6 percent of the population is Hispanic/Latino, respectively (Figure 6). In St. Clair County 3.4 percent of the population is Hispanic/Latino.

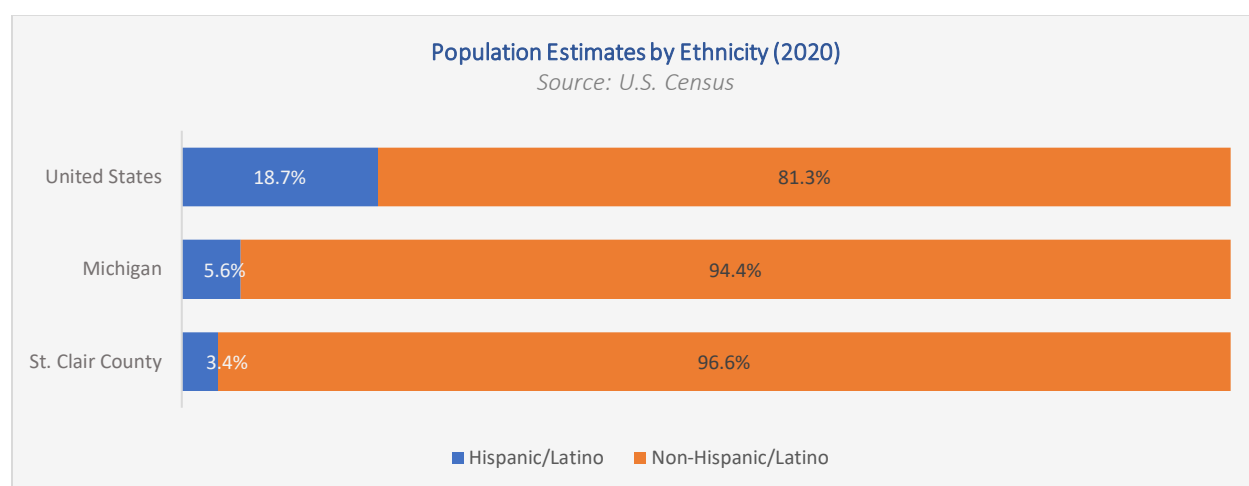


Figure 6: Population Estimates by Ethnicity (2020)

#### Sex and Age

Census data indicate that approximately 49.5 percent of the United States population is male, and 50.5 percent is female; this is not significantly different for the state of Michigan. According to census data, in St. Clair County half of the population is male and half is female (Table 8). The youngest residents, those below age 5, make up 6 percent of the United States population. In Michigan and St. Clair County, 5.6 and 5 percent of the population, respectively, is under the age of 5. In Michigan the median age is 39.8, and in St. Clair County it is 44.1, both higher than the United States' median age, which is 38.4 years.

##### Population by Sex and Age

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

|                  | Male  | Female | Under 5 | Median Age |
|------------------|-------|--------|---------|------------|
| United States    | 49.5% | 50.5%  | 5.9%    | 38.4       |
| Michigan         | 49.5% | 50.5%  | 5.6%    | 39.8       |
| St. Clair County | 50.0% | 50.0%  | 5.0%    | 44.1       |

Table 8: Population by Sex and Age (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

## Immigrants and Refugees

By the end of 2022 (FY), the United States had admitted 25,465 refugees for resettlement (under a ceiling of 125,000).<sup>vi</sup> The rate of refugee acceptance grew in 2022 over the admission of 11,411 refugees (under a ceiling of 62,500) to the U.S. in 2021 and admission of 11,814 refugees (under a ceiling of 18,000) in 2020.<sup>vii</sup> Of note, according to the [Migration Policy Institute](#), “the original ceiling set for FY 2021 was 15,000, the lowest level on record, but was increased to 62,500 on May 3, 2021,” showing the impact changing Presidential administrations and policies have on immigration, as refugee ceilings are established by “the President in consultation with Congress.”<sup>viii</sup>

| <b>U.S. Annual Refugee Resettlement Ceilings and Number of Refugees Admitted</b> |                          |                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Source: Migration Policy Institute</i>                                        |                          |                |
| <b>Year</b>                                                                      | <b>Refugees Admitted</b> | <b>Ceiling</b> |
| FY 2020                                                                          | 11,814                   | 18,000         |
| FY 2021                                                                          | 11,411                   | 62,500         |
| FY 2022                                                                          | 25,465                   | 125,000        |

**Table 9: U.S. Annual Refugees Admitted (2020-22)**

There are still uncertain changes to reform the United States immigration system based on different party leaders’ ideologies and political priorities. The tone of the Biden administration’s stances toward immigration reform is clear in this 2021 [White House Fact Sheet](#), however how this plays out is ever-changing with new reforms posed and legislative and court involvement.<sup>ix</sup>

In January 2023, the Biden administration announced that it would be implementing “new border enforcement actions” to “impose new consequences for individuals who attempt to enter [the United States] unlawfully.”<sup>x</sup> Of note, those who try to illegally cross into the United States without legal claim to remain but who are not subject to Title 42 “will be increasingly subject to expedited removal to their country of origin and subject to a five-year ban on reentry.”<sup>xi</sup> New, legal pathways for migration are being introduced. During Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the Biden Administration hopes to more than triple refugee admissions from refugees in the Western Hemisphere by allowing “20,000 refugees from Latin American and Caribbean countries.”<sup>xii</sup>

Policy changes include adding more resources at the border, an online appointment system at United States points of entry, and an increased “humanitarian assistance in Mexico and Central America” of \$23 million for the vulnerable in transit between countries.<sup>xiii</sup>

Title 42, a COVID-era law limiting border entry to stem the spread of COVID in the United States, ended on May 11, 2023, after it was used to deny 2.7 million hopeful immigrants and asylees without the opportunity to apply for entry.<sup>xiv</sup> The impact of the lapse of Title 42 will continue to play out. With its end, the Biden administration projected that as many as 13,000 people would try to cross into the United States from the southern border every day.<sup>xv</sup> To curb these numbers, on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, a new rule was proposed where asylum seekers will be denied if they have not already sought and been denied asylum in countries they have passed through before reaching the United States’ southern border.<sup>xvi</sup> “The measure, while stopping short of a total ban, imposes severe limitations on asylum for any nationality except Mexicans, who don’t have to travel through a third country to reach the U.S.”<sup>xvii</sup> Hopeful migrants must also “schedule an appointment at a U.S. border port of entry or use humanitarian programs available to certain nationalities” to be considered for asylum.<sup>xviii</sup>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Population and Demographic Data

Based on U.S. Census, 697,343 residents in the Michigan are foreign born, 6.9 percent of the total population. In St. Clair County, 3,347 residents are foreign born, 2.1 percent of the county's population. Table 10 notes the number and percentage of foreign-born residents in the United States, Michigan, and St. Clair County.

| Native and Foreign-Born Population |                  |                         |                               |                                      |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates  |                  |                         |                               |                                      |
|                                    | Total Population | Total Native Population | Total Foreign-Born Population | % of Population that is Foreign-Born |
| United States                      | 329,725,481      | 284,880,673             | 44,844,808                    | 13.6%                                |
| Michigan                           | 10,062,512       | 9,365,169               | 697,343                       | 6.9%                                 |
| St. Clair County                   | 160,067          | 156,720                 | 3,347                         | 2.1%                                 |

Table 10: Native and Foreign-Born Population (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Refugees also contribute to Michigan's economy. In the 11 months from October 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023, 2,212 refugees arrived in Michigan, with the highest numbers coming from Syria (810), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (758), Afghanistan (147), Iraq (146), and Burma (94).<sup>xix</sup>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Population and Demographic Data

## Language

### Language Spoken by Population in Poverty

In the United States, more than one in four persons between the ages of 5 and 17, and one in five persons, ages 18-plus, living in poverty, speak Spanish as their primary language (24.5 and 17.4 percent, respectively). In Michigan and St. Clair County, a lower proportion of the population in poverty (compared with the United States) speaks Spanish – 5.6 and 0.7 percent of those ages 5 to 17, respectively, and a corresponding 3.7 and 2.7 percent of those ages 18 and older (Tables 11 & 12).

#### Languages Spoken by Population Ages 5-17 in Poverty

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

|                  | Only English | Spanish | Other Indo-European Languages | Asian & Pacific Languages | Other Languages |
|------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| United States    | 68.6%        | 24.5%   | 1.9%                          | 2.8%                      | 2.2%            |
| Michigan         | 83.4%        | 5.6%    | 0.8%                          | 2.6%                      | 7.6%            |
| St. Clair County | 97.2%        | 0.7%    | 0.0%                          | 2.1%                      | 0.0%            |

Table 11: Language Spoken by Population Ages 5-17 in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

#### Language Spoken by Population Ages 18+ in Poverty

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

|                  | Only English | Spanish | Other Indo-European Languages | Asian & Pacific Languages | Other Languages |
|------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| United States    | 73.2%        | 17.4%   | 3.7%                          | 3.7%                      | 1.9%            |
| Michigan         | 87.5%        | 3.7%    | 1.6%                          | 2.8%                      | 4.4%            |
| St. Clair County | 95.2%        | 2.7%    | 0.2%                          | 1.7%                      | 0.2%            |

Table 12: Language Spoken by Population Ages 18+ in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

## Linguistic Isolation

“Increased linguistic diversity contributes to the United States’ global competitiveness and our ability to integrate culturally and economically. Speaking a parent’s native language other than English at home can have a positive effect on children’s English literacy development, and bilingual language skills can positively affect children’s educational achievement. The Census Bureau’s report, however, highlights a sobering statistic: millions of residents of the United States are not proficient in the English language. A linguistically isolated household is one where no one in the home above the age of 14 speaks English only or speaks a second language and speaks English well.”

National Center for Children in Poverty, <https://www.nccp.org/>

Based on U.S. census data, in Michigan and St. Clair County, 1.6 and 0.4 percent of all households (both natives and foreign-born), respectively, were linguistically isolated, meaning that all persons in the household, age 14 and over, had limited English proficiency (LEP). Of Spanish-speaking households in Michigan and St. Clair County, 12.9 and 11.3 percent, respectively, were linguistically isolated (Table 13).

#### Limited English-Speaking Households

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

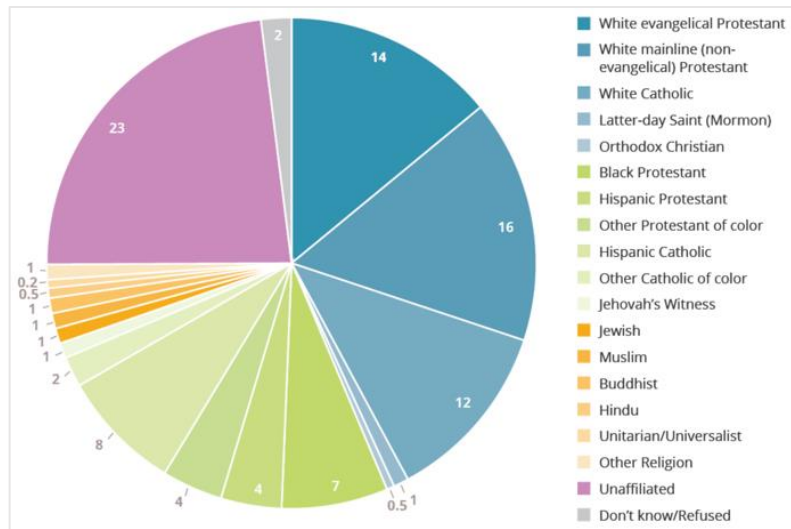
|                  | All Households | Spanish | Asian and Pacific Languages | Other Indo-European Languages | Other Languages |
|------------------|----------------|---------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| United States    | 4.2%           | 20.0%   | 23.1%                       | 14.5%                         | 15.2%           |
| Michigan         | 1.6%           | 12.9%   | 20.0%                       | 12.6%                         | 19.4%           |
| St. Clair County | 0.4%           | 11.3%   | 16.8%                       | 6.9%                          | 28.1%           |

Table 13: Linguistic Isolation (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

## Religion

[PRRI \(Public Religion Research Institute\)](#) “is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to conducting independent research at the intersection of religion, culture, and public policy.”

According to the report [The American Religious Landscape in 2020](#), “seven in 10 Americans (70 percent) identify as Christian, including more than four in 10 who identify as white Christian and more than one-quarter who identify as Christian of color. Nearly one in four Americans (23 percent) are religiously unaffiliated, and 5 percent identify with non-Christian religions” (Figure 7).<sup>xx</sup>



**Figure 7: The American Religious Landscape (2020)**

The [American Values Atlas \(AVA\)](#) created by the PRRI is an interactive map that allows users to retrieve religious traditions by state. According to AVA, 32 percent of the respondents in Michigan are Unaffiliated, followed by 17 percent each who identify as White Mainline Protestant and White Catholic (Table 14).

### Religious Traditions of Michigan (2022)

Source: Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI)

| Religious Tradition          | Percent | Religious Tradition      | Percent | Religious Tradition | Percent |
|------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| Unaffiliated                 | 32%     | Hispanic Protestant      | 2%      | Mormon              | N/A     |
| White Mainline Protestant    | 17%     | Hispanic Catholic        | 1%      | Orthodox Christian  | N/A     |
| White Catholic               | 17%     | Other Non-White Catholic | 1%      | Buddhist            | N/A     |
| White Evangelical Protestant | 13%     | Jehovah's Witness        | 1%      | Hindu               | N/A     |
| Black Protestant             | 8%      | Jewish                   | 1%      | Other Religion      | N/A     |
| Other Non-White Protestant   | 3%      | Muslim                   | 1%      |                     |         |
| New Age Religions            | 3%      | Unitarian / Universalist | 1%      |                     |         |

**Table 14: Religious Traditions of Michigan (2022)**

“The term ‘White’ signifies respondents who identify as White or Caucasian and do not identify as Hispanic or Latino. ‘Christian of color’ includes Christians who identify as Black, Hispanic, Asian, or Pacific Islander American, Native American, multiracial, or any other non-White race or ethnicity. ‘Religiously unaffiliated’ includes those who claim no religion in particular, atheists, agnostics, and spiritual but not religious Americans. ‘Non-Christian religious’ includes Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Unitarian Universalists, and adherents of any other world religion.”

Public Religion Research Institute, <https://www.prri.org>

The PRRI has combined data from the American Community Survey of more than 3,000 counties with data from nearly 460,000 interviews on religiosity, resulting in county-level maps of major religious groups.

For more information on various religious identities by county, please refer to: [Concentrations of Major Religious Groups in the U.S.](#)

## Household Characteristics

### Households with Children Under Age 18

In the United States more than 33 million households have children under the age of 18, 27.2 percent of total households (Table 15). In Michigan there are more than 1 million households with children under the age of 18, of which 16,705 are in St. Clair County.

| <b>Households with Children &lt;18</b>   |                         |                                              |                                                            |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i> |                         |                                              |                                                            |
|                                          | <b>Total Households</b> | <b>Households with Children &lt;18 Years</b> | <b>Percentage of Households with Children &lt;18 Years</b> |
| <b>United States</b>                     | 124,010,992             | 33,731,449                                   | 27.2%                                                      |
| <b>Michigan</b>                          | 3,976,729               | 1,012,826                                    | 25.5%                                                      |
| <b>St. Clair County</b>                  | 65,362                  | 16,705                                       | 25.6%                                                      |

**Table 15: Total Households (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

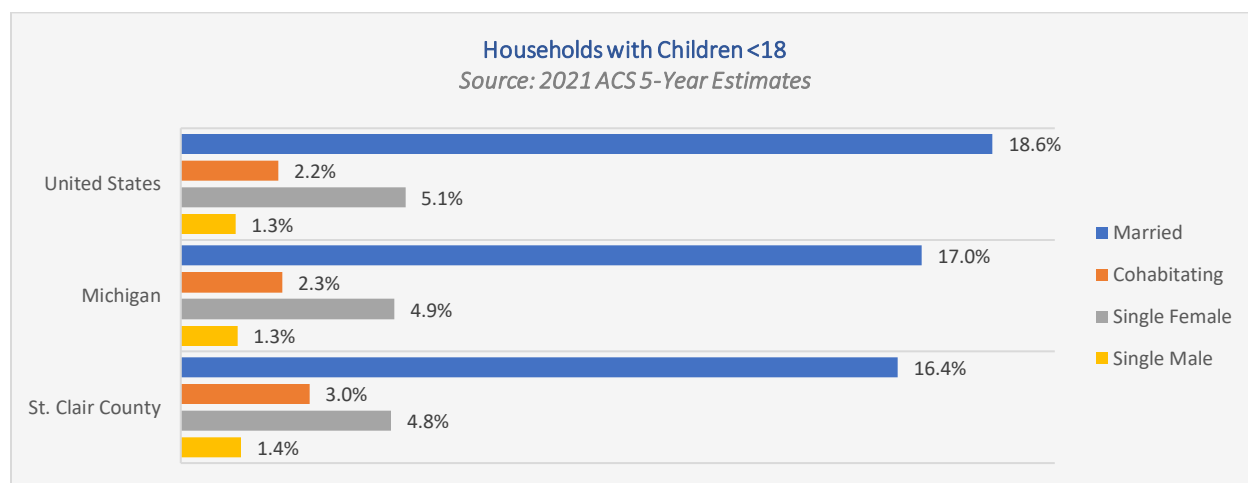
“A **family** is a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. The number of families is equal to the number of family households. However, the count of family members differs from the count of family household members because family household members include any non-relatives living in the household.

“A **family household** is a household maintained by a householder who is in a family (as defined above) and includes any unrelated people (unrelated subfamily members and/or secondary individuals) who may be residing there. The number of family households is equal to the number of families. The count of family household members differs from the count of family members, however, in that the family household members include all people living in the household, whereas family members include only the householder and his/her relatives. See the definition of family.

“A **nonfamily household** consists of a householder living alone (a one-person household) or where the householder shares the home exclusively with people to whom he/she is not related.”

U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/>

Of the households in Michigan and St. Clair County, 17 and 16.4 percent, correspondingly, are married-couple families with children under the age of 18. Cohabiting couples make up 2.3 and 3 percent of total households with children under 18, respectively; 4.9 and 4.8 percent, correspondingly, are single female householders, and a respective 1.3 and 1.4 percent are single male householders (Figure 8).



**Figure 8: Households with Children < Age 18 (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

## Grandparents and Grandchildren

“An increasing number of children in the United States live in households headed by a grandparent. This trend is due to increasing numbers of single parent families, the high rate of divorce, teenage pregnancies, incarceration of parents, substance abuse by parents, illness, disability or death of parents, parental abuse, or neglect. In many of these homes, neither of the child's biological parents is present. In most cases, children taken care of by grandparents move in with them as infants or preschoolers and remain with them for five years or more. These grandparents are a diverse group ranging in age from their 30s to their 70s. Many grandparents are ready to simplify their lives and slow down. Giving that up and taking over the responsibilities of being a primary caregiver again can stir up many feelings including grief, anger, loss, resentment and possibly guilt. The transition can be very stressful, and the emotional and financial burdens can be significant. Culture shock at having to deal with children and adolescents of a different generation can be great. Grandparent-headed households have a significantly higher poverty rate than other kinds of family units.”

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, <https://www.aacap.org/>

In Michigan, more than 145,000 grandchildren under the age of 18 live with a grandparent householder (6.7 percent of total children under age 18), of which more than 61,000 live with a grandparent who is responsible for them (Table 16). Approximately 34.8 percent of grandchildren who live with a grandparent householder do not have a parent present in the home. In St. Clair County, 2,033 children under age 18 live with a grandparent householder, 6.1 percent of total children under age 18. In St. Clair County 36.1 percent of grandchildren living with a grandparent householder do not have a parent present in the home.

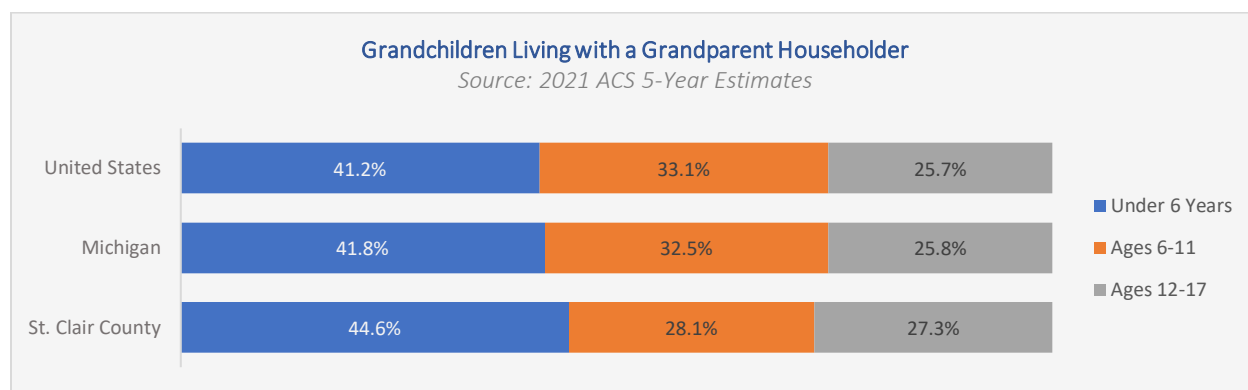
### Grandchildren <18 Living with a Grandparent Householder

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

|                  | Grandchildren <18 Living with a Grandparent Householder | Percentage of Children <18 Living with a Grandparent Householder | Grandparent Responsible | Parent not Present | Percentage of Parents not Present |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| United States    | 5,950,690                                               | 8.0%                                                             | 2,673,130               | 1,011,299          | 37.8%                             |
| Michigan         | 145,518                                                 | 6.7%                                                             | 61,867                  | 21,524             | 34.8%                             |
| St. Clair County | 2,033                                                   | 6.1%                                                             | 689                     | 249                | 36.1%                             |

**Table 16: Grandparents Living with and Responsible for Own Grandchildren (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

Of the more than 146,000 grandchildren under age 18 living with a grandparent householder in Michigan, 41.8 percent are children under the age of 6. In St. Clair County 44.6 percent of grandchildren under age 18 living with a grandparent householder are under the age of 6.



**Figure 9: Grandchildren Living with Grandparent Householder (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Population and Demographic Data

#### Veteran Population

Based on U.S. census data using 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates, there are approximately 17.4 million veterans in the United States (6.9 percent of the total civilian population, age 18 and older). In Michigan there are nearly 517,000 veterans, of which 10,482 veterans are in St. Clair County, 6.6 and 8.3 percent of the total population, respectively.

| Veteran Population                |                    |                                                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates |                    |                                                    |
|                                   | Number of Veterans | Percentage of Civilian Population Age 18 and Older |
| United States                     | 17,431,290         | 6.9%                                               |
| Michigan                          | 516,924            | 6.6%                                               |
| St. Clair County                  | 10,482             | 8.3%                                               |

Table 17: Veteran Population (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

#### Age Distribution of the Veteran Population

In the United States, Michigan, and St. Clair County, veterans ages 65-74, make up the largest proportion of the veteran population, 25.9, 29.3, and 30.5 percent, respectively (Figure 10).

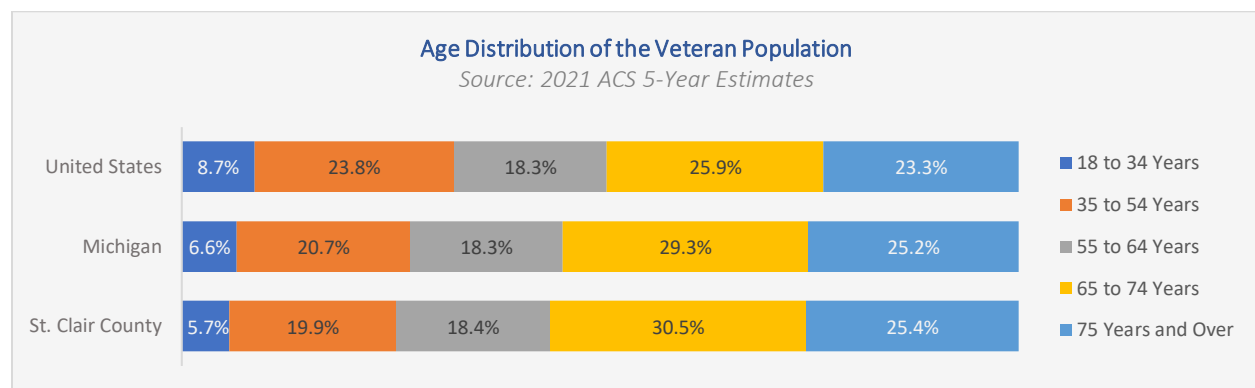


Figure 10: Age Distribution of Veterans (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

#### Veteran Population in Poverty

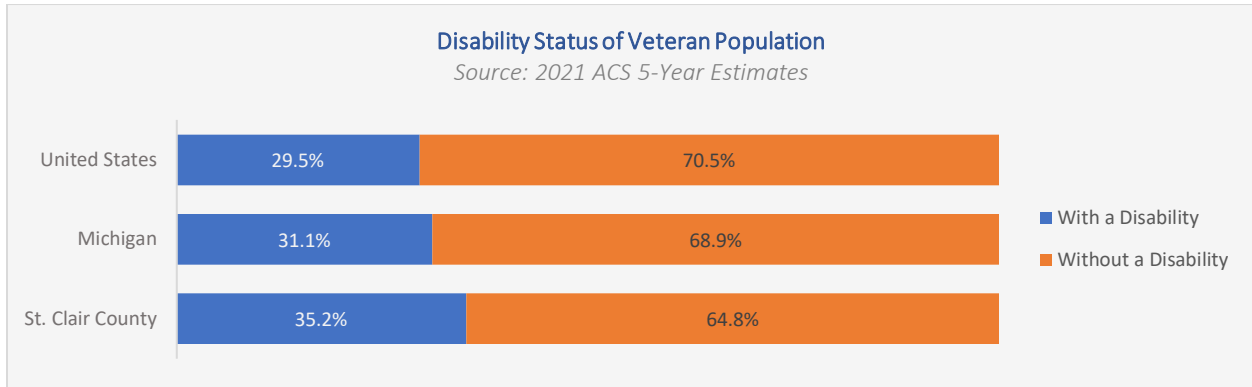
In the United States and Michigan, 6.8 and 7.2 percent of the veteran population, correspondingly, have an income below the federal poverty level. In St. Clair County 5.4 percent of the veteran population have an income below the federal poverty level.

| Veteran Population in Poverty     |                                                |                               |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates |                                                |                               |                                   |
|                                   | Veterans for Whom Poverty Status is Determined | Number of Veterans in Poverty | Percentage of Veterans in Poverty |
| United States                     | 17,157,125                                     | 1,175,255                     | 6.8%                              |
| Michigan                          | 509,105                                        | 36,464                        | 7.2%                              |
| St. Clair County                  | 10,340                                         | 554                           | 5.4%                              |

Table 18: Veteran Population in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

### *Disability Status of Veterans*

In the United States 29.5 percent of the veteran population in poverty have a disability (Figure 11). In Michigan and St. Clair County 31.1 and 35.2 percent of the veteran population in poverty, respectively, have a disability.



**Figure 11: Disability Status of Veterans in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

### *Veteran Employment Status*

Of the more than 17 million veterans in the United States, approximately 77 percent participate in the labor force, and 4.4 percent are unemployed (Figure 12). In Michigan and St. Clair County, 73.5 and 74.3 percent of the veteran population, respectively, participate in the labor force; 4.6 and 2.4 percent, correspondingly, are unemployed.

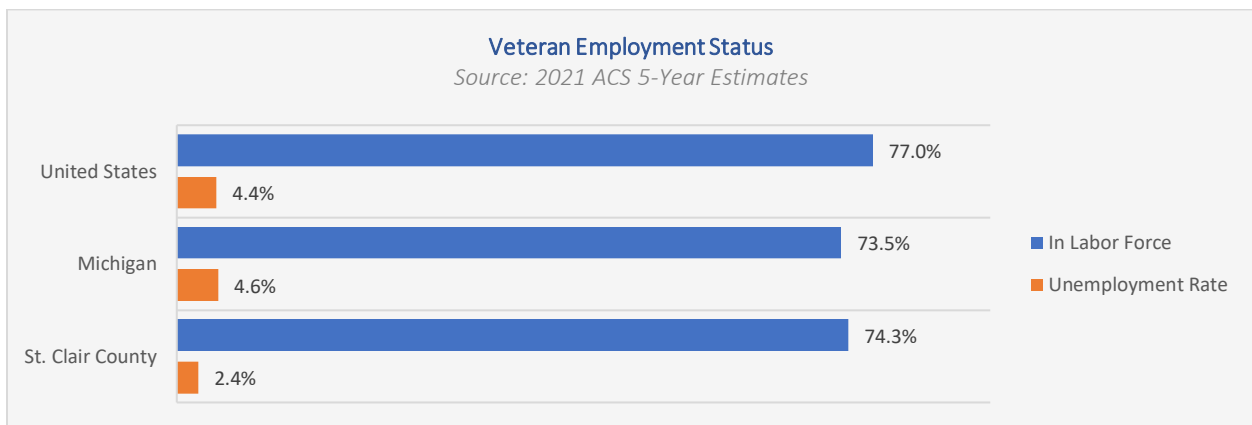
#### In labor force

- Currently working (civilian/armed forces)
- Unemployed: recently worked/seeking employment

#### Not in labor force

- Never worked/retired

U.S. Census, <https://www.census.gov/>



**Figure 12: Veteran Employment Status (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Population and Demographic Data

#### Senior Population/Population above 65 Years

Based on U.S. census data, there are almost 53 million senior citizens (above the age of 65) in the United States, representing 16 percent of the total civilian population age 18 and older (Table 19). In Michigan there are more than 1.7 million senior citizens, of which 30,067 live in St. Clair County. The senior population represents 17.2 and 18.8 percent in Michigan and St. Clair County, respectively.

| Senior Population                 |                           |                                                    |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates |                           |                                                    |
|                                   | Number of Senior Citizens | Percentage of Civilian Population Age 18 and Older |
| United States                     | 52,888,621                | 16.0%                                              |
| Michigan                          | 1,733,056                 | 17.2%                                              |
| St. Clair County                  | 30,067                    | 18.8%                                              |

Table 19: Senior Population (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

#### Senior Population in Poverty

In the United States and Michigan 12.6 and 13.3 percent of the population above the age of 65, correspondingly, have an income below the federal poverty level. In St. Clair County 12 percent of the population above the age of 65 have an income below the federal poverty level.

#### Disability Status of Seniors

In the United States and Michigan, approximately one-third of the senior citizen population have a disability, 33.4 and 33.1 percent, respectively (Figure 13). In St. Clair County 35 percent of the senior citizen population have a disability.

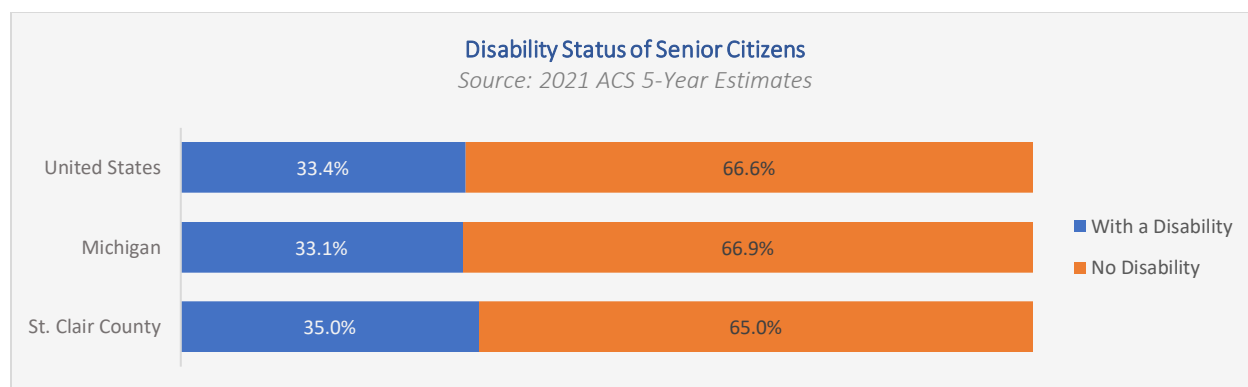


Figure 13: Disability Status of Senior Citizens (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

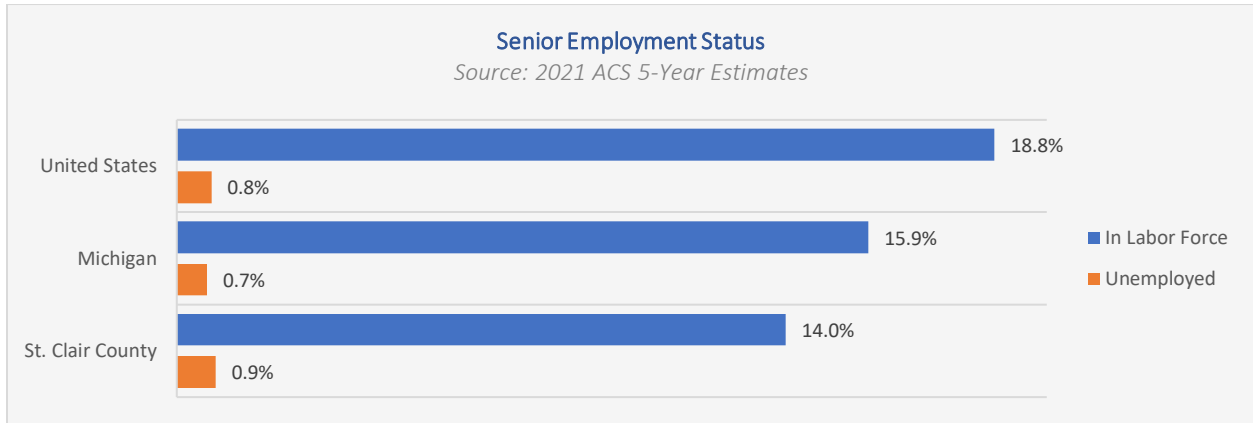
## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Population and Demographic Data

##### Senior Employment Status

In the United States and Michigan, 18.8 and 15.9 percent of the population above the age of 65, correspondingly, are in the labor force. (Figure 14). In St. Clair County 14 percent of the population above the age of 65 are in the labor force.



**Figure 14: Senior Citizens Employment Status (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

## Socioeconomic Status

### Education

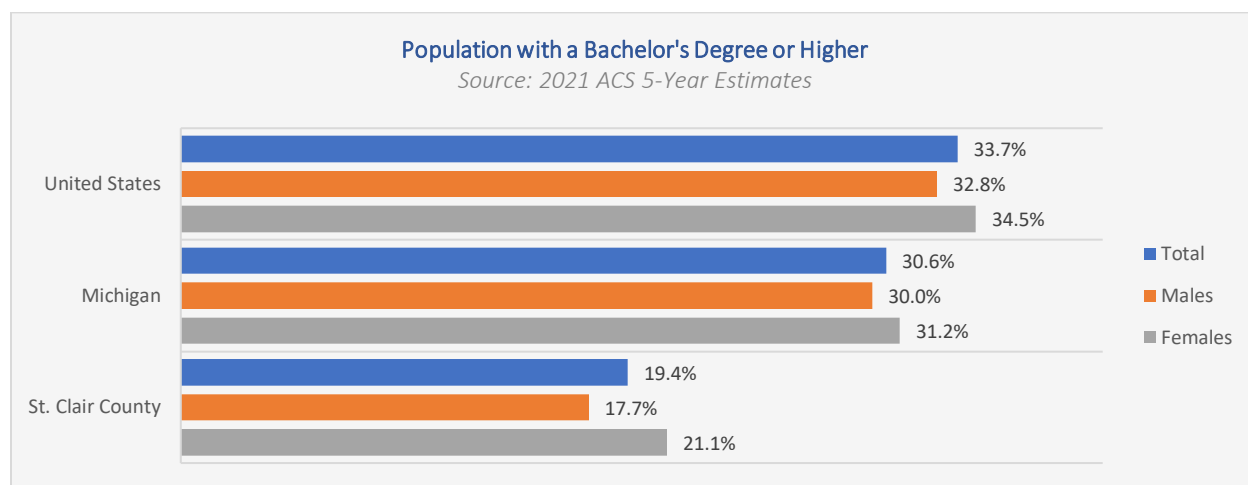
#### *Educational Attainment (Adults)*

In the United States, Michigan, and St. Clair County, 88.9, 91.6, and 91.8 percent of the adult population over age 25, respectively, are at minimum, a high school graduate (Table 20). The percentages of the adult population with a bachelor's degree in the United States and Michigan are 33.7 and 30.6 percent, respectively; in St. Clair County the percentage is much lower than the state rate, 19.4 percent.

| <b>Educational Attainment of Adults Age 25+</b> |                            |                           |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i>        |                            |                           |
|                                                 | <b>High School Degree+</b> | <b>Bachelor's Degree+</b> |
| <b>United States</b>                            | 88.9%                      | 33.7%                     |
| <b>Michigan</b>                                 | 91.6%                      | 30.6%                     |
| <b>St. Clair County</b>                         | 91.8%                      | 19.4%                     |

**Table 20: Educational Attainment (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

In the United States, Michigan, and St. Clair County, the proportion of women with a bachelor's degree is greater than the proportion of men with a bachelor's degree (Figure 15).



**Figure 15: Population with a BA Degree or Higher (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

#### **Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity**

In the United States 91.4 percent of White adults report having a high school degree or higher, and 35.5 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher. Approximately four out of five Black and Asian adults have a high school degree or higher, yet less than one in four Black adults have a bachelor's degree or higher (23.3 percent) compared with more than half of Asian adults (55.6 percent).

Table 21 provides detailed data on the percentage of adults with a high school or bachelor's degree by race and ethnicity for each geographic location studied. *Note: the table is sorted in descending order by educational attainment of a bachelor's degree for the United States.*

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Socioeconomic Status

#### Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

|                  | High School Graduate or Higher |          |                  | Bachelor's Degree or Higher |          |                  |
|------------------|--------------------------------|----------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------|------------------|
|                  | United States                  | Michigan | St. Clair County | United States               | Michigan | St. Clair County |
| Asian            | 87.6%                          | 89.6%    | 93.5%            | 55.6%                       | 64.8%    | 55.3%            |
| White            | 91.4%                          | 92.8%    | 92.0%            | 35.5%                       | 31.6%    | 19.5%            |
| Multiracial      | 83.1%                          | 88.0%    | 92.5%            | 28.7%                       | 29.4%    | 12.7%            |
| Black            | 87.2%                          | 87.4%    | 91.4%            | 23.3%                       | 18.4%    | 15.6%            |
| Hispanic/ Latino | 71.2%                          | 76.1%    | 81.8%            | 18.4%                       | 21.6%    | 20.6%            |
| NHPI             | 87.0%                          | 80.3%    | 90.7%            | 18.2%                       | 27.9%    | 74.4%            |
| AIAN             | 79.7%                          | 86.0%    | 74.7%            | 15.5%                       | 14.2%    | 5.7%             |
| Other            | 65.0%                          | 70.3%    | 73.9%            | 14.0%                       | 19.1%    | 12.9%            |

Table 21: Educational Attainment - High School Graduate or Higher (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

#### Educational Attainment of Mothers

Based on a study conducted using data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten Cohort, a parent's education (especially the mother's) has a notable impact on the child's future academic success.<sup>xxi</sup> In the United States, 14.1 percent of women who had a birth in the past 12 months have a graduate or professional degree. In Michigan and St. Clair County, 13.2 and 7.8 percent of women who had a birth in the past 12 months have a graduate or professional degree, respectively.<sup>xxii</sup>

#### "Mother's Education Significant to Children's Academic Success"

A mother knows best—and the amount of education she attains can predict her children's success in reading and math. In fact, that success is greater if she had her child later in life, according to a new University of Michigan study. Sandra Tang, a U-M psychology research fellow and the study's lead author, said children of mothers 19 and older usually enter kindergarten with higher levels of achievement. These students continue to excel in math and reading at higher levels through eighth grade than children of mothers 18 and younger."

University of Michigan,

<https://news.umich.edu/mothers-education-significant-to-children-s-academic-success/>

#### Michigan Department of Education

#### Student Membership by Race/Ethnicity

According to [MI School Data](#) (Michigan's Official Education Data Source), in the spring of 2023 there were more than 1.3 million students enrolled in public schools, of which 19,712 students were enrolled in St. Clair County (Table 22).<sup>xxiii</sup> Of the students in Michigan and St. Clair County, 63.9 and 85.4 percent, respectively, were White, 17.8 and 3.7 percent were Black, correspondingly, 8.9 and 4.6 percent were Hispanic/Latino, respectively, and a corresponding 5.1 and 5.5 percent were multiracial (Figure 16).

Although many school districts cross county borders in Michigan, based on the [St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency \(RESA\)](#) there are seven main school districts in St. Clair County. Table 22 and Figure 16 provide information on the student membership by race/ethnicity by school district. NOTE: The total number of students reported in the seven school districts will not add up to the total number of students in St. Clair County.

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

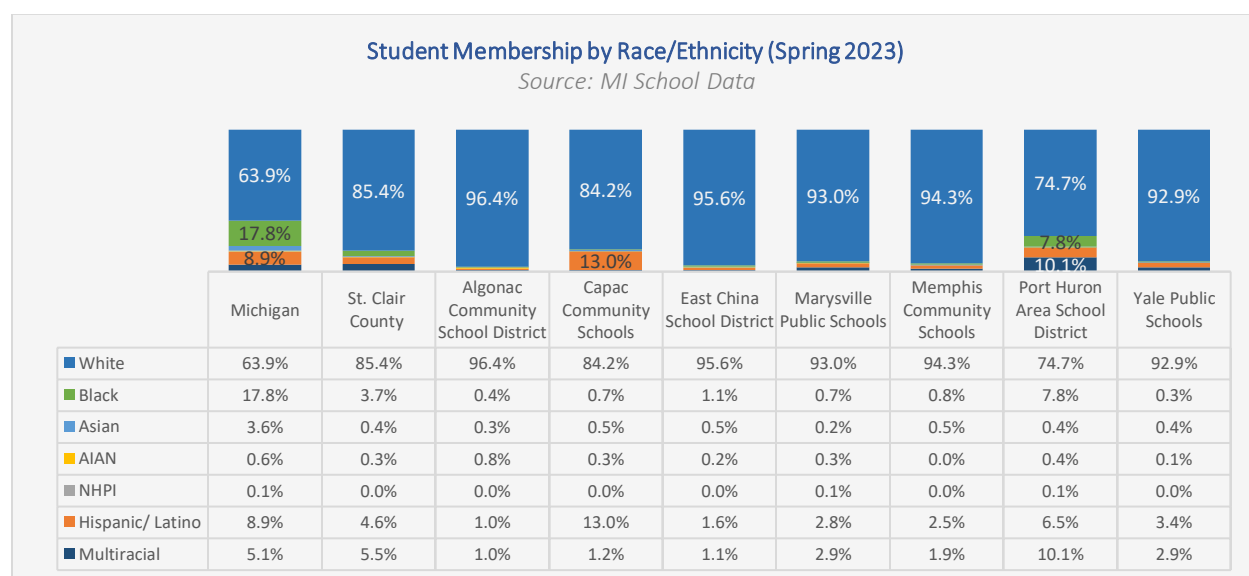
#### Socioeconomic Status

**Student Membership by Race/Ethnicity (Spring 2023)**

Source: MI School Data

|                                          | White   | Black   | Asian  | AIAN  | NHPI  | Hispanic / Latino | Multiracial | Total     |
|------------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|
| <b>Michigan</b>                          | 880,454 | 245,457 | 49,646 | 8,051 | 1,151 | 122,353           | 70,637      | 1,377,749 |
| <b>St. Clair County</b>                  | 16,843  | 734     | 87     | 61    | 9     | 898               | 1,080       | 19,712    |
| <i>Algonac Community School District</i> | 1,295   | 5       | 4      | 11    | 0     | 14                | 14          | 1,343     |
| <i>Capac Community Schools</i>           | 615     | 5       | 4      | 2     | 0     | 95                | 9           | 730       |
| <i>East China School District</i>        | 3,456   | 38      | 19     | 8     | 0     | 57                | 38          | 3,616     |
| <i>Marysville Public Schools</i>         | 2,427   | 18      | 6      | 7     | 2     | 74                | 77          | 2,611     |
| <i>Memphis Public Schools</i>            | 692     | 6       | 4      | 0     | 0     | 18                | 14          | 734       |
| <i>Port Huron Area School District</i>   | 5,315   | 557     | 29     | 27    | 6     | 464               | 721         | 7,119     |
| <i>Yale Public Schools</i>               | 1,619   | 6       | 7      | 1     | 0     | 59                | 50          | 1,742     |

**Table 22: Student Membership by Race/Ethnicity (Spring 2023)**



**Figure 16: Student Membership by Race/Ethnicity (Spring 2023)**

#### English Language Learners

During the fall of 2022 there were more than 11,000 English Language Learners in Michigan public schools, of which 12 students were enrolled in Capac Community Schools and five in the Port Huron Area School District. The remaining five school districts reported enrollment of less than five English Language Learners per district (Table 23).<sup>xxiv</sup>

**English Language Learners (Fall 2022)**

Source: MI School Data

|                                          | Number of Students |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Michigan</b>                          | 11,196             |
| <i>Algonac Community School District</i> | <5                 |
| <i>Capac Community Schools</i>           | 12                 |
| <i>East China School District</i>        | <5                 |
| <i>Marysville Public Schools</i>         | <5                 |

**English Language Learners (Fall 2022)**

Source: MI School Data

|                                        | Number of Students |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Memphis Community Schools</i>       | <5                 |
| <i>Port Huron Area School District</i> | 5                  |
| <i>Yale Public Schools</i>             | <5                 |

**Table 23: English Language Learners (2022-23)**

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Socioeconomic Status

#### Economically Disadvantaged Students

During the fall of 2022 there were more than 737,000 economically disadvantaged students in Michigan schools, 53.3 percent of all students (Table 24).<sup>xxv</sup> In St. Clair County school districts, between 37.6 and 62.7 percent of the students were economically disadvantaged.

| Economically Disadvantaged Students (Fall 2022) |         |         |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Source: MI School Data                          |         |         |
|                                                 | Number  | Percent |
| <b>Michigan</b>                                 | 737,278 | 53.3%   |
| Algonac Community School District               | 695     | 51.5%   |
| Capac Community Schools                         | 431     | 58.7%   |
| East China School District                      | 1,374   | 37.6%   |

| Economically Disadvantaged Students (Fall 2022) |        |         |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Source: MI School Data                          |        |         |
|                                                 | Number | Percent |
| Marysville Public Schools                       | 1,011  | 38.4%   |
| Memphis Community Schools                       | 296    | 40.3%   |
| Port Huron Area School District                 | 4,515  | 62.7%   |
| Yale Public Schools                             | 836    | 48.0%   |

Table 24: Economically Disadvantaged Students (Fall 2022)

#### Graduation Rates

At the end of the 2021-22 school year in Michigan, 81 percent of students entering as 9<sup>th</sup> graders graduated from high school within four years or earlier (Table 25).<sup>xxvi</sup> In St. Clair County, Capac Community Schools and the Port Huron Area School District graduation rates were lower than the state, 61.5 and 77.7 percent, respectively.

| Graduation Numbers and Rates (2021-2022) |        |       |
|------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Source: MI School Data                   |        |       |
|                                          | Number | Rate  |
| <b>Michigan</b>                          | 95,464 | 81.0% |
| Algonac Community School District        | 108    | 93.1% |
| Capac Community Schools                  | 40     | 61.5% |
| East China School District               | 313    | 94.6% |
| Marysville Public Schools                | 186    | 95.9% |

| Graduation Numbers and Rates (2021-2022) |        |       |
|------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Source: MI School Data                   |        |       |
|                                          | Number | Rate  |
| Memphis Community Schools                | 63     | 91.3% |
| Port Huron Area School District          | 459    | 77.7% |
| Yale Public Schools                      | 124    | 91.9% |

Table 25: State and District Graduation Rates (2021-22)

#### Dropout Rates

During the 2021-22 school year, high schools in Michigan reported a dropout rate of 8.2 percent (Table 26). Within St. Clair County districts, compared with the dropout rate for Michigan, rates were higher for Capac Community Schools and the Port Huron Area School District, 10.8 and 12.2 percent, respectively.<sup>xxvii</sup>

| Dropout Numbers and Rates (2021-2022) |        |       |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Source: MI School Data                |        |       |
|                                       | Number | Rate  |
| <b>Michigan</b>                       | 9,657  | 8.2%  |
| Algonac Community School District     | < 10   | 2.6%  |
| Capac Community Schools               | < 10   | 10.8% |
| East China School District            | < 10   | 1.8%  |
| Marysville Public Schools             | < 10   | 4.1%  |

| Dropout Numbers and Rates (2021-2022) |        |       |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Source: MI School Data                |        |       |
|                                       | Number | Rate  |
| Memphis Community Schools             | < 10   | 1.5%  |
| Port Huron Area School District       | 72     | 12.2% |
| Yale Public Schools                   | < 10   | 4.4%  |

Table 26: State and District Dropout Rates (2021-22)



## Financial Assets and Income

### *Median Household Income*

Michigan’s median household income of \$63,202 is lower than that of the United States, which is \$69,021; the median household income is even lower for St. Clair County, \$62,847 (Table 27). The per capita income in the United States is more than \$37,000, while the per capita incomes in Michigan and St. Clair County are lower, \$34,768 and \$33,302, respectively.

| <b>Household, Family, and Per Capita Income</b> |                                |                              |                             |                           |                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i>        |                                |                              |                             |                           |                          |
|                                                 | <b>Median Household Income</b> | <b>Mean Household Income</b> | <b>Median Family Income</b> | <b>Mean Family Income</b> | <b>Per Capita Income</b> |
| <b>United States</b>                            | \$69,021                       | \$97,196                     | \$85,028                    | \$114,099                 | \$37,638                 |
| <b>Michigan</b>                                 | \$63,202                       | \$85,727                     | \$80,365                    | \$103,151                 | \$34,768                 |
| <b>St. Clair County</b>                         | \$62,847                       | \$81,129                     | \$77,083                    | \$92,756                  | \$33,302                 |

**Table 27: Household Income (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

Median and mean household incomes are included to ensure that comparisons are not misleading. Using the mean household income alone, for example, will ignore extreme values if the data is not symmetrically distributed. It is a fact that more people earn low salaries than high ones because a fairly large proportion of the population works part-time, so the data will not be symmetrically distributed. Therefore, the mean is not the best “average” to use in this case when comparing income across the state.

For more information and to see a list of U.S. states by median household income visit the following: <http://worldpopulationreview.com/states/median-household-income-by-state/>.

The **mean** is the average (when one adds all of the values and then divides by the number of values).

The **median** is the middle value in a list of numbers (found after the list of numbers is sorted in order).

“**Per capita income** is a measure of the amount of money earned per person in a nation or geographic region. Per capita income can be used to determine the average per-person income for an area and to evaluate the standard of living and quality of life of the population. Per capita income for a nation is calculated by dividing the country’s national income by its population.”

Investopedia, <https://www.investopedia.com>

### *Average Salary: Private Occupational Sector*

**Rationale for Using Average Salary by Private Sector:** The [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](https://www.bls.gov/) offers average salary data on the following sectors: private, the federal government, state government, local government, combined government, and total of all ownership. It is difficult to do a real “apples-to-apples” comparison of public and private sector compensation because public sector job descriptions and duties may be very different from those in the private sector, and vice versa, so often there are no comparable positions within the other sectors.

The analyses of average wages and benefits in public and private sectors reveal that state and local government workers earn more than private-sector workers because state and local government workers are better educated and have more work experience, on average, than do private-sector workers.<sup>xxviii</sup> Workers with lower skills and education levels in state and local government jobs earn less than their

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Socioeconomic Status

private-sector counterparts. The public sector jobs, in most cases, offer better job security and certainty of pension benefits, notably absent in the private sector.

The following data tables and analysis of average weekly wages focuses on private industries. According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), the average weekly salary in the private sector in the United States is \$1,396, compared with \$1,280 in Michigan (Table 28). The greatest disparity in wages is seen for the Information sector, where employees earn 29.8 percent less, on average, than the weekly national wage (Figure 17). The Information sector comprises establishments engaged in the following processes: (a) producing and distributing information and cultural products, (b) providing the means to transmit or distribute these products as well as data or communications, and (c) processing data.

#### Average Weekly Wages: Private Occupational Sector (2022, Q4)

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

|                                                  | Average Weekly Wage<br>in United States | Average Weekly Wage<br>in Michigan | Wage Disparity<br>Between the United<br>States and Michigan |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10 Total, all industries</b>                  | \$1,396                                 | \$1,280                            | -8.3%                                                       |
| <b>101 Goods-producing</b>                       | \$1,546                                 | \$1,488                            | -3.8%                                                       |
| <b>1011 Natural resources and mining</b>         | \$1,335                                 | \$991                              | -25.8%                                                      |
| <b>1012 Construction</b>                         | \$1,544                                 | \$1,578                            | 2.2%                                                        |
| <b>1013 Manufacturing</b>                        | \$1,576                                 | \$1,493                            | -5.3%                                                       |
| <b>102 Service-providing</b>                     | \$1,365                                 | \$1,222                            | -10.5%                                                      |
| <b>1021 Trade, transportation, and utilities</b> | \$1,144                                 | \$1,136                            | -0.7%                                                       |
| <b>1022 Information</b>                          | \$2,690                                 | \$1,889                            | -29.8%                                                      |
| <b>1023 Financial activities</b>                 | \$2,163                                 | \$1,609                            | -25.6%                                                      |
| <b>1024 Professional and business services</b>   | \$1,887                                 | \$1,665                            | -11.8%                                                      |
| <b>1025 Education and health services</b>        | \$1,222                                 | \$1,192                            | -2.5%                                                       |
| <b>1026 Leisure and hospitality</b>              | \$633                                   | \$519                              | -18.0%                                                      |
| <b>1027 Other services</b>                       | \$979                                   | \$880                              | -10.1%                                                      |

Table 28: Average Weekly Wages: Private Occupational Sector (2022, Q4)

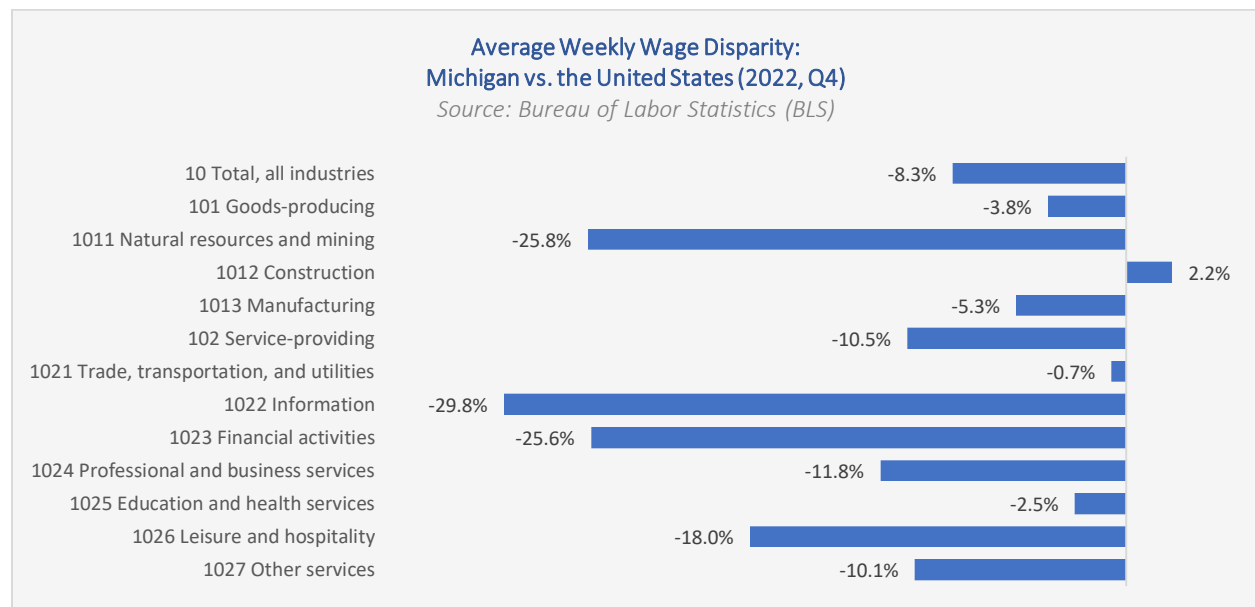


Figure 17: Average Weekly Wages: Private Occupational Sector (2022, Q4)

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Socioeconomic Status

Table 29 provides the average weekly wages for all private occupational sectors in the United States, Michigan, and St. Clair County. With the exception of Natural Resources and Mining and Construction, average weekly wages in St. Clair County are lower than the United States and Michigan.<sup>xxix</sup>

#### Average Weekly Wages: Private Occupational Sector (2022, Q4)

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

|                                                  | United States | Michigan | St. Clair County |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------|------------------|
| <b>10 Total, all industries</b>                  | \$1,396       | \$1,280  | \$1,063          |
| <b>101 Goods-producing</b>                       | \$1,546       | \$1,488  | \$1,365          |
| <b>1011 Natural resources and mining</b>         | \$1,335       | \$991    | \$1,344          |
| <b>1012 Construction</b>                         | \$1,544       | \$1,578  | \$1,639          |
| <b>1013 Manufacturing</b>                        | \$1,576       | \$1,493  | \$1,278          |
| <b>102 Service-providing</b>                     | \$1,365       | \$1,222  | \$943            |
| <b>1021 Trade, transportation, and utilities</b> | \$1,144       | \$1,136  | \$1,108          |
| <b>1022 Information</b>                          | \$2,690       | \$1,889  | \$952            |
| <b>1023 Financial activities</b>                 | \$2,163       | \$1,609  | \$1,238          |
| <b>1024 Professional and business services</b>   | \$1,887       | \$1,665  | \$1,204          |
| <b>1025 Education and health services</b>        | \$1,222       | \$1,192  | \$1,033          |
| <b>1026 Leisure and hospitality</b>              | \$633         | \$519    | \$369            |
| <b>1027 Other services</b>                       | \$979         | \$880    | \$763            |

Table 29: Average Weekly Wages: Private Occupational Sector (2022, Q4)

#### Underemployment

Underemployment is a term used to describe where individuals are employed but not in jobs that fully utilize their skills or abilities, or where they work fewer hours than they would prefer. It should be noted that the number of underemployed individuals by county cannot be quantified due to the lack of comprehensive data on this issue.

“**Underemployment** occurs when a person does not work full time or takes a job that does not reflect their actual training and financial needs. That is, their job doesn’t use all their skills and education, or provides less than full time work. This is not the same as unemployment, which refers to people who are not currently employed at all.

Underemployment is divided into three common categories, as follows:

- Skilled workers in low-income jobs
- Skilled workers in jobs that don’t fully utilize their skills
- Part-time workers who would rather work full-time

Two types of underemployment exist: visible and invisible.

1. Visible underemployment comprises employees who work fewer hours than what is considered normal in their field or industry. They possess the skills to work in a full-time position but are unable to find regular employment. They usually work part-time jobs to make ends meet.
2. Invisible underemployment refers to people who work in jobs that don’t utilize their skills – such as a financial analyst working as a waiter in a restaurant. This type of underemployment is very difficult to measure and requires extensive research and surveys. (migrants – language barrier – i.e. surgeon working as cleaner)

In addition, a third type of underemployment exists, which is called ‘marginally attached to the labor force.’ It includes people who have looked for employment in the past year, who would like to work, and are available for work, but are ‘discouraged workers’ or those who have given up looking for employment altogether because of their prolonged inability to find work.

Underemployment also includes people with full-time employment but who live below the poverty line. They are known as the ‘working poor.’”

Corporate Finance Institute, <https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/economics/underemployment/>

### *Asset Poverty and Liquid Asset Poverty*

According to data retrieved from the [Prosperity Now Scorecard](#), in the United States 19 percent of households live in asset poverty, which means that without income these households would not be able to survive at the poverty level for three months. In Michigan and St. Clair County, 18 and 14 percent of households, respectively, live in asset poverty.

A household that lives in liquid asset poverty means they do not have enough liquid assets (those that can be converted to cash in a short amount of time) to survive at the poverty level for three months if their income is interrupted. The liquid asset poverty rate for households in the United States is 27 percent, 24 percent in Michigan, and 25 percent in St. Clair County.

#### **Asset and Liquid Asset Poverty (2021)**

*Source: Prosperity Now Scorecard*

|                                                                                                                                             | United States | Michigan | St. Clair County |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------|------------------|
| <b>Asset Poverty</b>                                                                                                                        | 19%           | 18%      | 14%              |
| <i>Percentage of households without sufficient net worth to subsist at the poverty level for three months in the absence of income.</i>     |               |          |                  |
| <b>Liquid Asset Poverty</b>                                                                                                                 | 27%           | 24%      | 25%              |
| <i>Percentage of households without sufficient liquid assets to subsist at the poverty level for three months in the absence of income.</i> |               |          |                  |

**Table 30: Asset and Liquid Asset Poverty (2021)**

#### What is the Scorecard?

“The Prosperity Now Scorecard is a comprehensive resource featuring data on family financial health and policy recommendations to help put all U.S. households on a path to prosperity. The Scorecard equips advocates, policymakers, and practitioners with national, state and local data to jump-start a conversation about solutions and policies that put households on stronger financial footing across five issue areas: Financial Assets & Income; Businesses & Jobs; Homeownership & Housing; Health Care and Education.

“The Scorecard assesses all states on their relative ability to provide opportunities for residents to build and retain financial stability and wealth. The state outcome rankings are a measure of financial prosperity and how that prosperity is shared and safeguarded. The Scorecard also ranks the states on racial disparities—the gaps in 26 outcome measures between White residents and residents of color—and factors this into a state’s overall performance. Prosperity Now is increasing its focus on racial economic inequality because, as the data illustrates, structural inequality in the United States means that race and ethnicity have an outsized impact on economic well-being. Black, Latino, Native American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander people fare worse across all Scorecard outcomes and issues.

“The Scorecard also separately assesses states on the strength of 29 policies to expand economic opportunity. Taken together, these 29 policies provide a comprehensive view of what states can do to help residents build and protect wealth in the issue areas described above. Unlike the outcome measures, the strengths of states’ policies are assessed on fixed criteria arrived at through consultation with issue experts and Prosperity Now’s own knowledge of policies that are promising, proven or effective in helping families build and protect financial stability and wealth.

“The Scorecard also offers information at the local level—city, county, congressional district, tribal area and metro areas—on up to 33 measures.”

Prosperity Now Scorecard, <https://scorecard.prosperitynow.org/>

### *Unbanked and Underbanked*

Based on data reported by the [Prosperity Now Scorecard](#), in Michigan and St. Clair County, 5 and 3 percent of households, respectively, are unbanked, which indicates that no one in the household has a checking or savings account.

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Socioeconomic Status

Households that are considered underbanked have access to a checking and/or saving account; however, in the past 12 months they have made use of “non-bank money orders, non-bank check-cashing services, non-bank remittances, payday loans, rent-to-own services, pawn shops or refund anticipation loans (RALs).”<sup>xxx</sup> The underbanked rates for households in Michigan and St. Clair County are 13 and 10 percent, respectively.

| Unbanked and Underbanked Households (2021)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |               |          |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------|------------------|
| Source: Prosperity Now Scorecard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |               |          |                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | United States | Michigan | St. Clair County |
| <b>Unbanked</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 5%            | 5%       | 3%               |
| Percentage of households with neither a checking nor savings account.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |               |          |                  |
| <b>Underbanked</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 14%           | 13%      | 10%              |
| Percentage of households that have a checking and/or a savings account and have used non-bank money orders, non-bank check-cashing services, non-bank remittances, payday loans, rent-to-own services, pawn shops or refund anticipation loans (RALs) in the past 12 months. <sup>xxxi</sup> |               |          |                  |

**Table 31: Unbanked and Underbanked Households (2021)**

*ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed Households*

[United for ALICE](#) is an organization that studies the financial hardships of households and families on a national level and has partnerships with select states to conduct similar research and work on a state and local level. ALICE is an acronym that stands for: **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. Based on the 2023 National Overview report, using 2021 data, 42 percent of households in the United States were below the ALICE threshold, of which 13 percent were living under the federal poverty level (FPL), and 29 percent of households were ALICE.

In Michigan 39 percent of households were below the ALICE threshold, of which 13 percent were living under the FPL, and 26 percent of households were ALICE. “These households earned above the FPL, but not enough to afford basic household necessities.”<sup>xxxii</sup> In St. Clair County 38 percent lived below the ALICE threshold, of which 11 percent were living under the FPL and 27 percent were ALICE.

“ALICE, an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed, is a new way of defining and understanding the struggles of households that earn above the federal poverty level, but not enough to afford a bare-bones household budget.

“For far too many families, the cost of living outpaces what they earn. These households struggle to manage even their most basic needs - housing, food, transportation, child care, health care, and necessary technology. When funds run short, cash-strapped households are forced to make impossible choices, such as deciding between quality child care or paying the rent, filling a prescription, or fixing the car. These short-term decisions have long-term consequences not only for ALICE families, but for all of us.”

United for ALICE, <https://www.unitedforalice.org/>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Socioeconomic Status

##### Family Budget Calculator

The [Economic Policy Institute](#) (EPI) is a nonprofit organization that examines the needs of middle- and low-income workers through policy research, data analysis, and the proposal of public economic policies. Specifically, they have developed the [Family Budget Calculator](#), which “measures the income a family needs in order to attain a modest yet adequate standard of living.”<sup>xxxiii</sup> The Family Budget Calculator examines costs for 10 different family types and needs, including housing, food, child care, transportation, health care, other necessities, and taxes. Per EPI, in comparison to the Federal Poverty level, “EPI’s family budgets provide a more accurate and complete measure of economic security in America.”<sup>xxxiv</sup>

The table below provides information on annual expenses for St. Clair County and two types of families: one parent and two children, and two parents and two children. The required annual income for a single-parent family with two children in St. Clair County is \$69,649; the required annual income for a two-parent family (one working) with two children is \$79,603. The Federal Poverty Level for a family of three is \$24,860; and for a family of four it is \$30,000.

| Family Budget Calculator (March 2022, Data are in 2020 Dollars) |                     |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Source: Economic Policy Institute                               |                     |                      |
|                                                                 | St. Clair County    |                      |
|                                                                 | 1 Parent 2 Children | 2 Parents 2 Children |
| Hourly Wage Required                                            | \$33.49             | \$38.27              |
| Poverty Wage                                                    | \$11.95             | \$14.42              |
| Annual Expenses                                                 |                     |                      |
| Housing                                                         | \$10,894            | \$10,894             |
| Food                                                            | \$6,474             | \$8,665              |
| Transportation                                                  | \$12,692            | \$14,635             |
| Health Care                                                     | \$8,499             | \$12,569             |
| Other Necessities                                               | \$6,293             | \$7,087              |
| Child Care                                                      | \$17,118            | \$17,118             |
| Taxes                                                           | \$7,678             | \$8,636              |
| Required Annual Income                                          | \$69,649            | \$79,603             |

Table 32: Family Budget Calculator (2022)

The required income for a single-parent family with two children in St. Clair County is \$69,649, **2.8 times the federal poverty level** for a family of three, which is \$24,860!

## Federal Assistance Benefits

### *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)*

The [Michigan Department of Health & Human Services](#) (MDHHS) provides temporary cash assistance to eligible pregnant women and low-income families with minor children through the Family Independence Program (FIP). According to the MDHHS, during the month of July 2023 there were nearly 29,000 FIP recipients in Michigan, of which 22,366 recipients were children and 6,607 recipients were adults.<sup>xxxv</sup> In St. Clair County there were 347 FIP recipients, of which 275 recipients were children and 72 recipients were adults.

### *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*

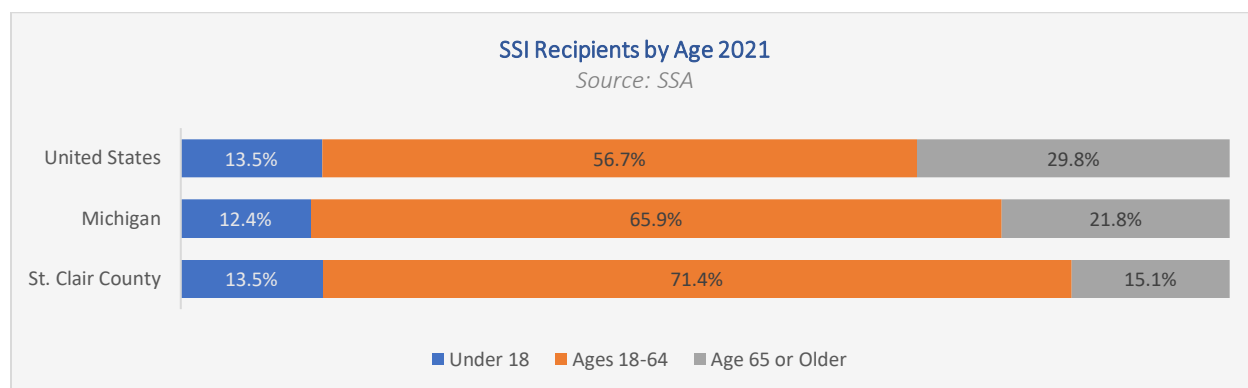
[Supplemental Security Income, or SSI](#), provides monthly financial payments to low-income adults who are blind, disabled, or age 65 and older. Children who are disabled or blind are also eligible to receive SSI benefits. Families receiving SSI are categorically eligible for Head Start services, providing the family an additional benefit and supportive resource. In 2021, nearly 32,000 children under age 18 received SSI benefits, of which 449 children were in St. Clair County (Table 33).<sup>xxxvi</sup>

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Recipients by Age (December 2021)**

Source: Social Security Administration (SSA)

|                  | Total     | Age       |           |           |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                  |           | < 18      | 18–64     | 65+       |
| United States    | 7,695,900 | 1,038,149 | 4,363,898 | 2,293,853 |
| Michigan         | 256,662   | 31,804    | 169,030   | 55,828    |
| St. Clair County | 3,319     | 449       | 2,369     | 501       |

**Table 33: SSI Recipients by Age (2021)**



**Figure 18: SSI Recipients by Age (2021)**



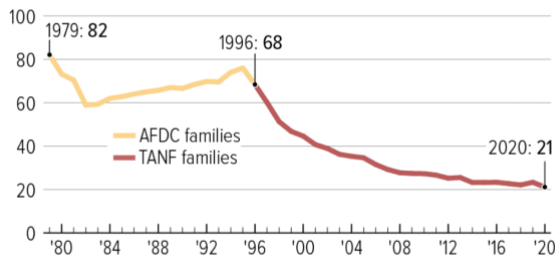
### Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

“Families experiencing poverty need access to cash assistance to help them afford their basic needs and maintain stability, particularly during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Families use assistance provided by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to pay rent, for utilities, diapers, food, transportation, and other necessities. Yet too few families struggling to make ends meet can access the program, and TANF’s history of racism means that it fails to reach many families in states where Black children are likelier to live. If TANF had the same reach in 2020 as its predecessor, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), did in 1996, 2.38 million more families nationwide would have received cash assistance. Instead, in 2020, for every 100 families in poverty nationwide, only 21 received TANF cash assistance — down from 68 families in 1996. At an economically precarious time for families, this “TANF-to-poverty ratio” (TPR) is the lowest in the program’s history.”

FIGURE 1

#### TANF’s Reach Declined Significantly Over Time

Number of families receiving AFDC/TANF benefits for every 100 families with children in poverty



Note: TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, AFDC = Aid to Families with Dependent Children  
Source: CBPP analysis of poverty data from the Census’ Current Population Survey and AFDC/TANF caseload data from the Department of Health and Human Services and (since September 2006) caseload data collected by CBPP from state agencies

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

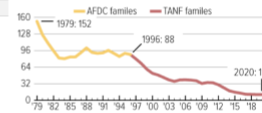
#### TANF Cash Assistance Should Reach Many More Families in Michigan to Lessen Hardship



In 2019-20, for every 100 families living in poverty in Michigan, only 11 received TANF cash assistance. This “TANF-to-poverty ratio” has fallen 77 points since 1995-96. If TANF reached the same share of families in poverty that its predecessor AFDC did in 1996, 120,053 more families in Michigan would be helped by TANF now.

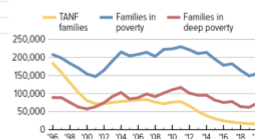
| TANF-to-poverty ratio | 1995/96 | 2019/20 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| Michigan              | 88      | 11      |
| National              | 68      | 21      |

Number of Families in Michigan Receiving AFDC/TANF Cash Assistance for Every 100 Families With Children in Poverty



| Families with children | 1995/96 | 2019/20 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| Receiving AFDC/TANF    | 183,752 | 16,999  |
| In poverty             | 208,173 | 155,266 |
| In deep poverty        | 89,142  | 74,485  |

Changes in AFDC/TANF Cases and the Number of Families With Children in Poverty and Deep Poverty in Michigan



“Access to TANF largely depends on where a family lives. There are no federal minimum eligibility standards and states have the power to erect barriers or create pathways to TANF cash assistance. This has led to wide variation among state TPRs, which range from 71 in California and Vermont to just four in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.”

“These geographic disparities reflect racial inequities in TANF: compared to white children, Latinx children are somewhat more likely, and Black children even more likely, to live in states with the lowest TPRs. The history of racism in cash assistance programs in the United States lives on in policies that impact access to TANF today, from strict work requirements and time limits to invasive behavioral requirements, exacerbating the barriers Black and Latinx families still face to economic stability.

“More income during early childhood can improve children’s futures, research continues to find. But TANF’s limited reach means that when families hit hard times because they have lost a job, are fleeing domestic violence, or are facing a health or mental health crisis, they may have no access to cash assistance. Blocking families from assistance to meet their basic needs often puts them on a downward spiral, making it even harder to get back on their feet, and may have long-term negative consequences for children.

“State and federal policymakers can change these trends. States should remove barriers to assistance and ease policies that cut off families who are still struggling. At the federal level, policymakers should hold states accountable for serving families experiencing poverty and provide the resources to help them do so.”

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/income-security/tanf-cash-assistance-should-reach-millions-more-families-to-lessen>



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Socioeconomic Status

#### Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

According to the IRS, “the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) helps low- to moderate-income workers and families get a tax break. If you qualify, you can use the credit to reduce the taxes you owe – and maybe increase your refund.”<sup>xxxvii</sup> As of December 2022, more than 31 million individuals and families received an EITC in the United States (Table 34). The average amount received was \$2,043, and the total amount received by all eligible individuals and families was approximately \$64 billion.<sup>xxxviii</sup> In Michigan there were approximately 923,000 EITC claims with an average claim of \$2,017 per individual or family.

#### Earned Income Tax Credit Report (December 2022, for Calendar Year 2021)

Source: Internal Revenue Service

|                      | Number of EITC Claims | Total EITC Amount | Average EITC Amount |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>United States</b> | 31 million            | \$64 billion      | \$2,043             |
| <b>Michigan</b>      | 923,000               | \$1.9 billion     | \$2,017             |

Table 34: EITC (December 2022)

The 2022 standard Federal EITC 2022 Income Limits state that a single individual with one child can receive a credit of up to \$3,733 as long as earnings do not exceed \$43,492 per year.<sup>xxxix</sup> A single parent with two children can receive a maximum credit of \$6,164 as long as earnings do not exceed \$49,399. The income limits to earn an EITC far exceed the federal poverty levels; the federal poverty level for a family of two is \$19,720 and \$24,860 for a family of three.

#### Tax Year 2022 (Current Tax Year)

Find the maximum AGI, investment income and credit amounts for tax year 2022.

| Children or Relatives Claimed | Filing as Single, Head of Household, or Widowed | Filing as Married Filing Jointly |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Zero</b>                   | \$16,480                                        | \$22,610                         |
| <b>One</b>                    | \$43,492                                        | \$49,622                         |
| <b>Two</b>                    | \$49,399                                        | \$55,529                         |
| <b>Three</b>                  | \$53,057                                        | \$59,187                         |

Investment income limit: \$10,300 or less

#### Maximum Credit Amounts

The maximum amount of credit:

- No qualifying children: \$560
- 1 qualifying child: \$3,733
- 2 qualifying children: \$6,164
- 3 or more qualifying children: \$6,935

#### Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC)

“Earned income tax credits (EITC) are a common strategy used by governments to bolster the economic security of low-income working families, especially those with children. By reducing personal income tax liability, low-income tax filers retain more of their income. The amount of a tax credit is determined mostly by income level, marital status, and number of dependent children.

#### Quick Facts

- EITCs are a tax benefit designed to help low- to moderate-income working people.
- The federal government, 30 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and some municipalities have EITCs.
- The federal EITC has been in place since 1975, and Rhode Island enacted the first state EITC in 1986.
- More than 25 million eligible tax filers received almost \$63 billion in federal EITC during the 2019 tax year.
- The average EITC amount received per tax filer was \$2,476 during the 2019 tax year.
- Workers must file tax returns to receive the credit.
- An estimated 20 percent of eligible workers do not claim EITC. To improve participation rates, the IRS sponsors an annual awareness day.”

National Conference of State Legislatures, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/earned-income-tax-credits-for-working-families.aspx>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Poverty

#### Poverty

##### Federal Poverty Guidelines

The [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) issues the Federal Poverty Guidelines in the [Federal Register](#) annually. The Poverty Guidelines for a family of four in 2023 is \$30,000. Research suggests that a family of four requires at least double that amount to make ends meet.<sup>xi</sup> The measurement only accounts for the family's annual income; it does not include other aspects of economic status such as housing, debt, assets, or property. The calculation used today was originally developed in the 1960s based on the amount of money spent by families on food. The poverty level was reached by multiplying that dollar amount (money spent by families on food) times three. Nowadays, families not only spend approximately one-seventh of their annual income on food, but the cost of child care, transportation, and health care have increased drastically over the past 60 years.<sup>xii</sup>

| Persons in Family/Household                                                               | Poverty guideline |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1                                                                                         | \$14,580          |
| 2                                                                                         | \$19,720          |
| 3                                                                                         | \$24,860          |
| 4                                                                                         | \$30,000          |
| 5                                                                                         | \$35,140          |
| 6                                                                                         | \$40,280          |
| 7                                                                                         | \$45,420          |
| 8                                                                                         | \$50,560          |
| For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,140 for each additional person. |                   |

Learn more about how poverty is measured by watching this [YouTube video](#) from the Institute for Research on Poverty.

##### Poverty in Michigan

Per the 2021 [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates \(SAIPE\)](#), 13 percent of the population in Michigan live in poverty (more than 1.2 million individuals), and 17.6 percent of children, ages 0-17, live in poverty (more than 372,000 children) (Table 35 & Figure 19). In St. Clair County 11.1 percent of the overall population live in poverty; of the children between the ages of 0 and 17, 16.7 percent, live in poverty.

##### Poverty Estimates (2021)

Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

|                  | All Ages   | Poverty Est., All Ages | Age 0-17   | Poverty Est., Age 0-17 |
|------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| United States    | 41,393,176 | 12.8%                  | 12,243,219 | 16.9%                  |
| Michigan         | 1,283,086  | 13.0%                  | 372,695    | 17.6%                  |
| St. Clair County | 17,579     | 11.1%                  | 5,381      | 16.7%                  |

Table 35: Poverty (2021)

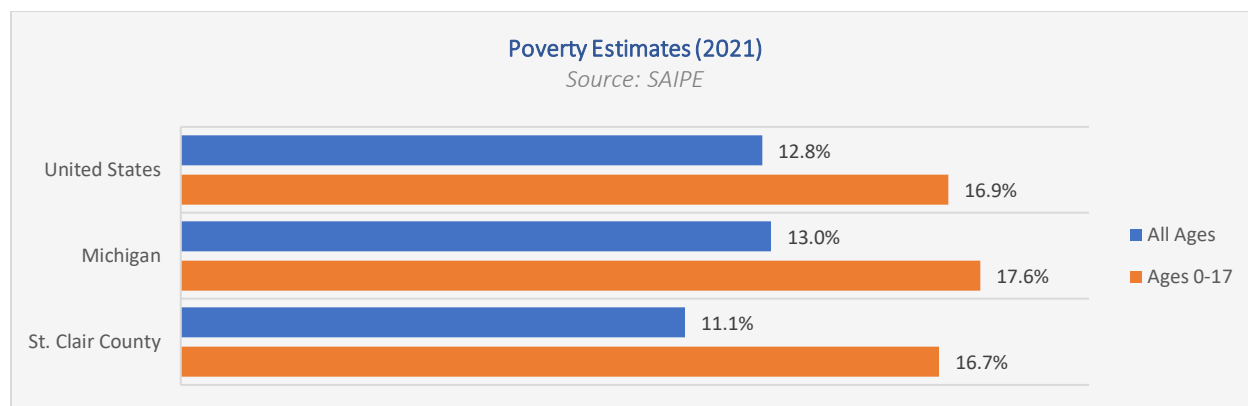


Figure 19: Poverty (2021)

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Poverty

##### Extreme Poverty

Extreme poverty is defined by the World Bank as an individual living on \$1.90 or less per day.<sup>xlii</sup> The extent to which extreme poverty exists in the United States is heavily debated. In 2018 Dr. Bruce D. Meyer, Professor at the McCormick Foundation University of Chicago, found that extreme poverty is very rare to nonexistent in the United States as existing studies and reports “fail to account for important benefits such as in-kind transfers, public assistance, and unreported earnings.”<sup>xliii</sup>

However, although the median family income in Michigan is \$63,202, 3.4 percent of families statewide have an income of less than \$10,000 per year. In St. Clair County, 3.6 percent of families have an income of less than \$10,000 per year. The federal poverty level for a family of four in the United States is \$30,000, approximately \$20.50 per day, per person. A family of four, living on an income of less than \$10,000, must make ends meet with approximately \$6.80 per day, per person.

##### Extreme Poverty

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

|                  | Total Families | Families Earning Less than \$10,000/Year |         |
|------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------|---------|
|                  |                | Number                                   | Percent |
| United States    | 80,755,759     | 2,697,864                                | 3.3%    |
| Michigan         | 2,522,202      | 85,478                                   | 3.4%    |
| St. Clair County | 44,302         | 1,599                                    | 3.6%    |

Table 36: Extreme Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

##### Poverty by Race/Ethnicity

Although the overall poverty rate (for all ages) in Michigan is 13 percent, the poverty rate for Black residents, who make up 13.7 percent of the population in the state, is 26.6 percent. The poverty rate for those who identify as multiracial, who make up 6.3 percent of the population, is 17.8 percent. Of the Hispanic/Latino residents in the state, who make up 5.6 percent of the population, 19.3 percent live in poverty (Figure 20). In St. Clair County, the poverty rate for the Black population is 28.9 percent, 29.6 percent for the multiracial population, and 17.8 percent for the Hispanic/Latino population.

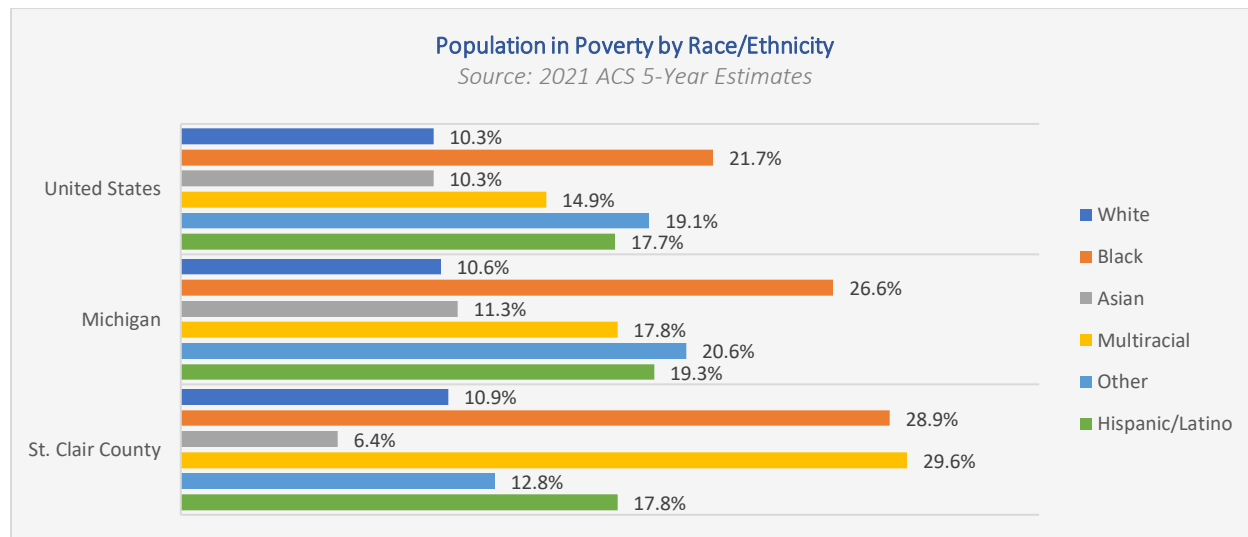


Figure 20: Poverty by Race/Ethnicity (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Poverty

##### Poverty by Educational Attainment

Obtaining a higher level of education significantly impacts poverty rate. In Michigan 27 percent of the population with less than a high school degree, lives in poverty, while 4.1 percent of the population with a bachelor's degree or higher, lives in poverty (Figure 21). In St. Clair County 23.8 percent of the population with less than a high school degree lives in poverty; of the population with a bachelor's degree or higher, 3.6 percent lives in poverty.

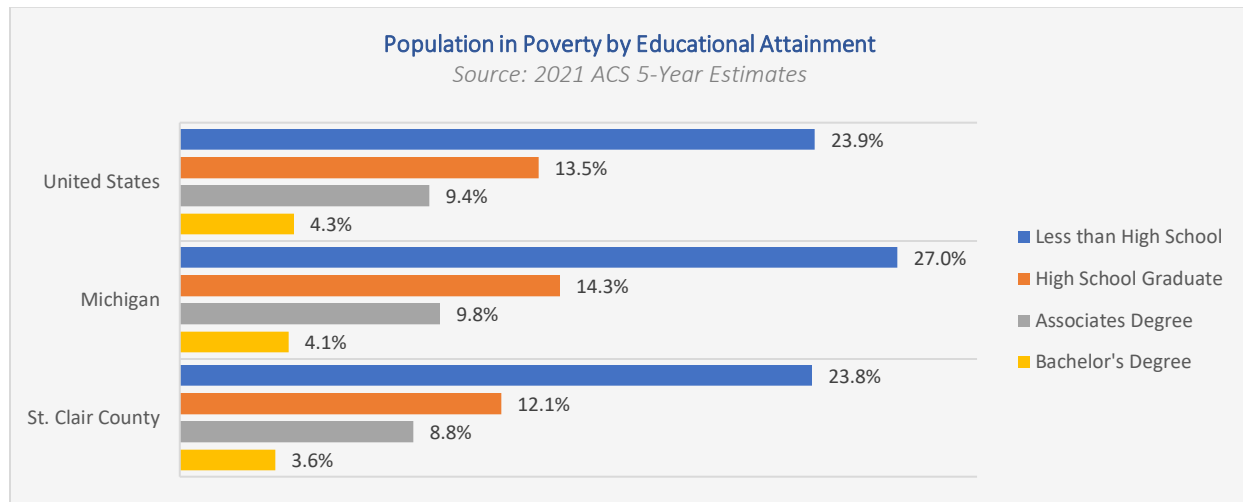


Figure 21: Poverty by Educational Attainment (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

##### Poverty by Employment Status

Like educational attainment, a significant difference is seen in poverty rates between employed and unemployed individuals. Additionally, in the United States and Michigan employed and unemployed females live in poverty at higher rates than employed and unemployed males (Figure 22). In St. Clair County unemployed males live in poverty at higher rates than unemployed females.

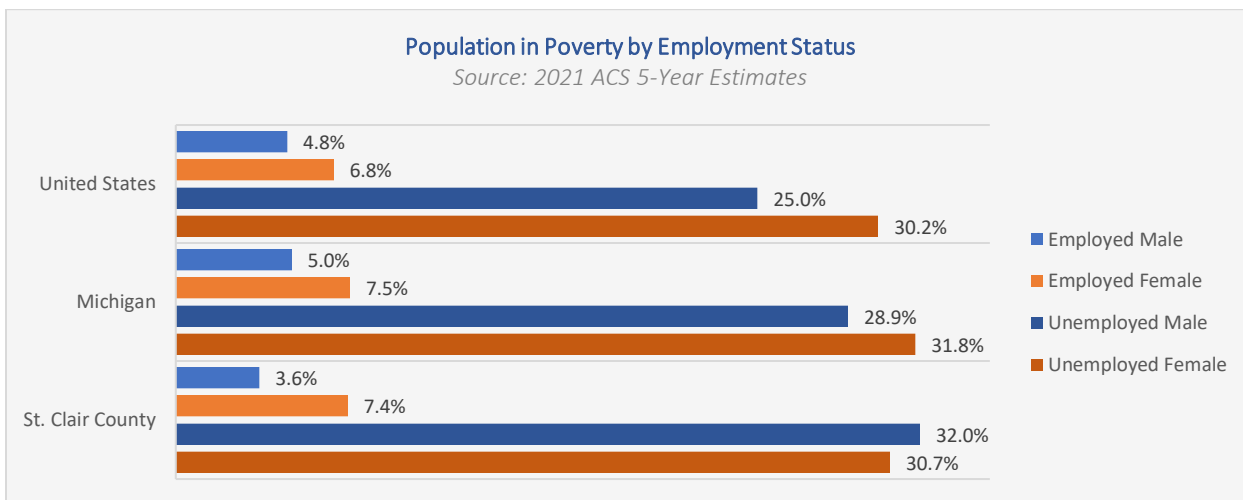


Figure 22: Population in Poverty by Employment Status (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Poverty

##### Births to Women in Poverty

Of the nearly 4 million women between the ages 15 and 50 who had a birth in the United States in the past 12 months, more than 829,000, or 20.9 percent, were living in poverty (Table 37). In Michigan more than 27,000, or 23.1 percent of all women who had a birth, gave birth in poverty. In St. Clair County 477 women between the ages of 15 and 50, gave birth in poverty, 24.3 percent.

##### Women 15-50 Years Who Had a Birth in the Past 12 Months in Poverty

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

|                  | Total Births | Births in Poverty | Percentage of Births in Poverty |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| United States    | 3,971,395    | 829,324           | 20.9%                           |
| Michigan         | 117,552      | 27,067            | 23.1%                           |
| St. Clair County | 1,960        | 477               | 24.3%                           |

NOTE: Census estimates report on the number of women who gave birth in the past 12 months; the 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates report on the average of five years from 2016 to 2020.

Table 37: Women Who Had a Birth in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

##### Families in Poverty

In the United States, 8.9 percent of all families live in poverty, 4.5 percent of married-couple families live in poverty, and 24.5 percent of families led by a single female live in poverty. In Michigan and St. Clair County, 8.9 percent of all families live in poverty, 4.1 percent of married-couple families live in poverty, and 25.9 and 26.9 percent of single female householder families, respectively, live in poverty (Figure 23).

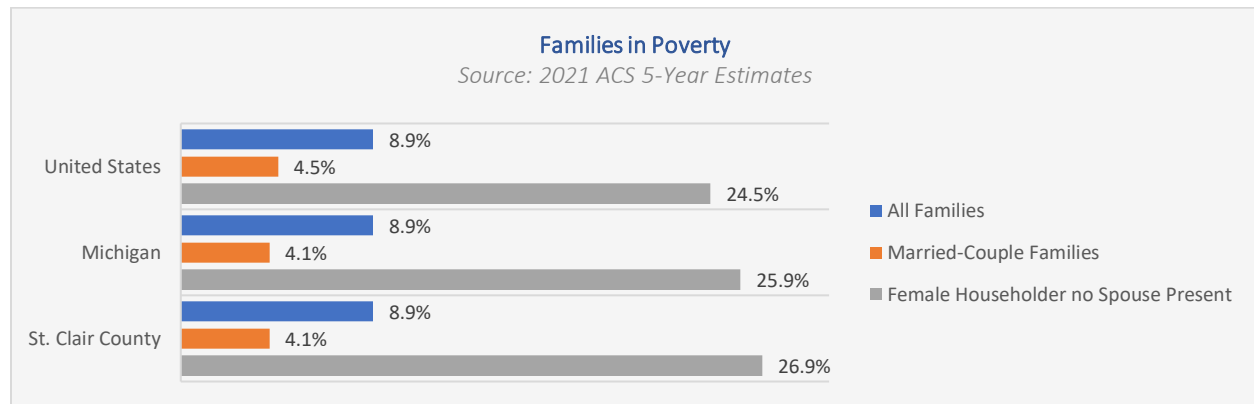


Figure 23: Families in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Poverty

#### Children in Poverty

##### Children Ages 0-5: Percent in Poverty

In the United States there are more than 23 million children, ages 0-5, of which more than 4 million live in poverty, 18.1 percent. In Michigan 20.2 percent of children, ages 0-5, live in poverty, a total of 137,661 children (Table 38). In St. Clair County, 18.2 percent of children, ages 0-5, live in poverty, representing 1,658 children.

##### Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

|                  | Total Children Ages 0-5 | Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty |       |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| United States    | 23,353,556              | 4,227,649                    | 18.1% |
| Michigan         | 682,352                 | 137,661                      | 20.2% |
| St. Clair County | 9,113                   | 1,658                        | 18.2% |

Table 38: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

##### Racial Proportion of Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty

As previously stated, in Michigan 13.7 percent of the population is Black; of the children, ages 0-5, living in poverty, however, 33.1 percent, or more than 68,000 children, are Black (Table 39, Figure 24). Statewide the multiracial population makes up 6.3 percent of the total; however, 12.1 percent of children, ages 0-5, living in poverty, are multiracial. In St. Clair County, of the children, ages 0-5, living in poverty, 79.3 percent are White, 2.7 percent are Black, and 17.7 percent are multiracial.

##### Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty by Race

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

|                  | Total     | White     | Black     | Asian   | AIAN   | NHPI   | Multiracial | Other   |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|-------------|---------|
| United States    | 4,227,649 | 1,968,946 | 1,084,833 | 125,257 | 69,166 | 12,092 | 547,142     | 420,213 |
| Michigan         | 137,661   | 68,302    | 45,614    | 2,067   | 822    | 132    | 16,647      | 4,077   |
| St. Clair County | 1,658     | 1,314     | 44        | 0       | 6      | 0      | 294         | 0       |

Table 39: Number of Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty by Race (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

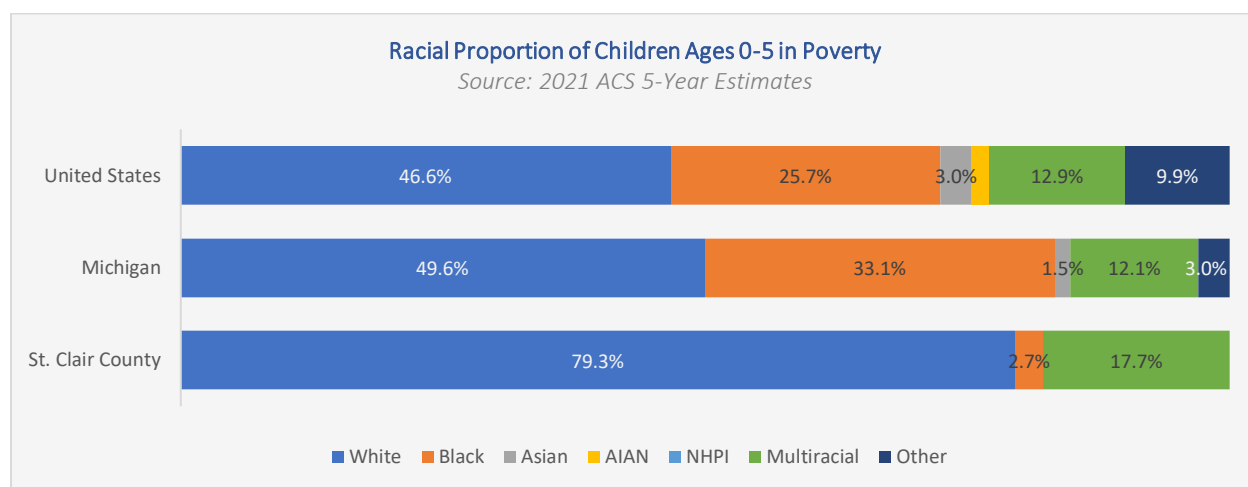


Figure 24: Racial Proportion Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Poverty

##### *Ethnic Proportion of Children Ages 0-5 In Poverty*

In Michigan, as previously stated, 5.6 percent of the population is Hispanic/Latino. Of the children, ages 0 to 5, who live in poverty, 12.2 percent are Hispanic/Latino (Table 40 & Figure 25). In St. Clair County 3.4 percent of the population is Hispanic/Latino; however, 6.5 percent of children in poverty are Hispanic/Latino.

##### Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty by Ethnicity

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

|                  | Total     | Non-Hispanic / Latino | Hispanic / Latino |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| United States    | 4,227,649 | 1,471,927             | 2,755,722         |
| Michigan         | 137,661   | 16,749                | 120,912           |
| St. Clair County | 1,658     | 108                   | 1,550             |

Table 40: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty by Ethnicity (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

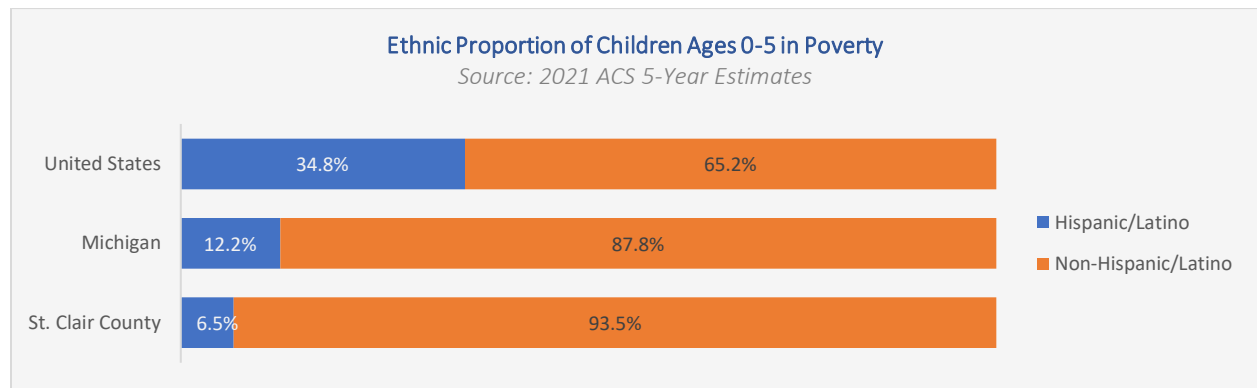


Figure 25: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty by Ethnicity (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

## Economic Features and Trends

### *United States*

The economic forecast for the second half of 2023 has proven difficult to predict with periods of perceived stability shaken up by the sudden threats of two government shutdowns. The country successfully averted its first-ever default when the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 was enacted on June 3rd, 2023, temporarily solving the impending debt ceiling crisis and stabilizing the economy at least for some months.<sup>xliv</sup> Economic forecasts for the U.S. were then divided, with major institutions offering differing projections. As of July 2023, JP Morgan and Wells Fargo still expected a recession may be possible, while Reuters and Deloitte noted moderate economic growth and cited businesses investing in new factories and consumers still spending steadily as signs of better days to come.<sup>xliv</sup> More recently, a second government shutdown was averted on September 30<sup>th</sup> when a bill was passed by the House of Representatives and with a bi-partisan vote of 88 to 9 in the Senate, then signed by President Biden hours before the impending shutdown.<sup>xlvi</sup> This will keep the government functioning through November 17<sup>th</sup>, however the future is uncertain as lawmakers will need to agree on long-term solutions to reestablish national stability.<sup>xlvi</sup>

Separate from the lawmaker impasses, economists' expectations were defied when "in the second quarter of this year, the economy expanded at a 2.4 percent annual rate," and "hourly wages rose faster than prices did in the spring for the first time in two years."<sup>xlvi</sup> This means workers have more money to purchase goods and add to economic circulation. Oil prices have come down since the beginning of the Ukraine-Russia War, and the supply chain has started to mend after bottlenecks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the aforementioned war.<sup>xlvi</sup>

In the Early Childhood Education realm, the Economic Report of the President, released in March 2023, sets addressing the challenges of "early care and education programs" as an important economic step to bracing the economy as a whole.<sup>i</sup> To address the supply and demand challenges faced in the ECE sector, the report promotes "carefully designed government policies [to] address frictions in the ECE market."<sup>ii</sup> The government's role then, would be to "foster a better-functioning ECE market by funding subsidies for child care providers, including incentives to improve the quality of care and higher caregiver pay, alongside subsidies and publicly provided ECE programming for families."<sup>iii</sup>

### *Michigan*

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation boasts that Michigan is first in Economy for states with a population over 2 million people (as of 2022), third for Sustainable Development (2021), predicted to be in the top three states to lead EV battery manufacturing in 2030, and is currently one of the top 10 states for business (2023).<sup>liii</sup> In CNBC's ranking of America's Top States for Business in 2023, Michigan was in the top 10, thanks to its "strong job growth, advanced manufacturing leadership, and a low cost of living and doing business."<sup>liv</sup>

The number of employed residents has now rebounded to pre-pandemic numbers; however, while employment growth is still anticipated, it could slow due to an expected auto industry strike.<sup>lv</sup> Of note, Michigan "is home to 61 of the world's top 100 automotive suppliers."<sup>lvi</sup> The University of Michigan's Department of Economics projects that 66,000 jobs will be added to Michigan's economy in 2023, with a



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Economic Features and Trends

growth of 52,000 new jobs in 2024 and 46,000 jobs in 2025.<sup>lvii</sup> In 2022, due to inflation, “real disposable income per capita fell by nearly 10 percent” meaning that Michigan residents should experience “zero growth in living standards over the span of six years, from 2019 to 2025.”<sup>lviii</sup>

Despite this news, Michigan is making some strides in early childhood education. In the Michigan New Economy initiative, Governor Whitmer included a goal to improve child care access under Pillar 1: Grow the Middle Class. Michigan met the goal to “provide access to low or no cost child care for 150,000 more families by 2024.”<sup>lix</sup> In March 2021, the Michigan Tri-Share Child Care Pilot Program was created “in hopes of making child care more affordable for parents, while also helping businesses retain workforce talent.”<sup>lx</sup> As part of Michigan’s Tri-Share Child Care Pilot Program, “participating employers must agree to identify and recruit eligible employees, provide employer portions of each participating employee’s child care costs, and maintain communication with the facilitator hub regarding each employee’s continued employment and eligibility.”<sup>lxi</sup>

#### St. Clair County

The unemployment rate in St. Clair County is 3.8 percent as of July 2023, which is lower than the state’s 4.3 percent.<sup>lxii</sup> In 2021, St. Clair County was home to 3,049 employer establishments of Michigan’s total 224,676 employer establishments.<sup>lxiii</sup> *U.S. News* ranks St. Clair County’s Business Growth Rate at 7.3 percent, lower than the state’s 7.6 percent and the nation’s 7.7 percent.<sup>lxiv</sup> St. Clair County’s overall score was 45; additional scores included 50/100 for the Economy, 58/100 for Community Vitality, and 53/100 for Infrastructure.<sup>lxv</sup>

Due to its proximity to the Canadian border and more than 25 auto assembly plants, St. Clair County’s Economic Development Alliance (EDA) has a focus on attracting “advanced manufacturing, automotive plastics, automation, logistics, and transportation” businesses.<sup>lxvi</sup> Large regional employers include Chrysler Fiat, General Motors, Ford Motor, Toyota, and Honda. The top industry in St. Clair County is advanced manufacturing, in large part due to the two national defense installations in the area.<sup>lxvii</sup> Energy generation is also a large employer and industry in St. Clair County due to a number of local energy plants. Of note, “utility companies and their assets make up 20 percent of the county’s tax base.”<sup>lxviii</sup>

The table below lists the top industries, occupations, and wages in St. Clair County. By number of employees, the top industries in St. Clair County are Manufacturing (16,197 people), Health Care and Social Assistance (10,832), and Retail Trade (8,698), and the most common occupations are Product occupations (8,962 people), Office and Administrative Support occupations (7,428), and Sales and Related occupations (6,858). By median earnings, the top industries in St. Clair County are Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (\$99,926), Utilities (\$94,000), and Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$91,250), while the top earning occupations are Architecture and Engineering occupations (\$87,078), Life, Physical, and Social Science occupations (\$77,647), and Law Enforcement Workers Including Supervisors occupations (\$76,213).

#### St. Clair County Industries and Occupations

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

| Top Industries                    | Number of Employees |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Manufacturing                     | 16,197              |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 10,832              |

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Economic Features and Trends

| <b>St. Clair County Industries and Occupations</b>        |                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i>                  |                            |
| Retail Trade                                              | 8,698                      |
| <b>Top Industries by Median Earnings</b>                  | <b>Wages</b>               |
| Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction             | \$99,926                   |
| Utilities                                                 | \$94,000                   |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises                   | \$91,250                   |
| <b>The Most Common Jobs by Occupation</b>                 | <b>Number of Employees</b> |
| Product Occupations                                       | 8,962                      |
| Office and Administrative Support Occupations             | 7,428                      |
| Sales and Related Occupations                             | 6,858                      |
| <b>Top Occupations by Median Earnings</b>                 | <b>Wages</b>               |
| Architecture and Engineering Occupations                  | \$87,078                   |
| Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations            | \$77,647                   |
| Law Enforcement Workers Including Supervisors Occupations | \$76,213                   |

**Table 41: St. Clair County Industries and Occupations (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

The table below lists the company names, sector, number of employees, and related industries for St. Clair County's top 25 employers.<sup>lxix</sup>

| <b>St. Clair County Top Employers (Date Retrieved: September 6, 2023)</b> |                                          |         |                     |                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Source: Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County</i>          |                                          |         |                     |                       |
| Rank                                                                      | Business                                 | Sector  | Number of Employees | Industry              |
| 1                                                                         | McLaren Port Huron                       | Private | 1,375               | Health Care           |
| 2                                                                         | Motherson (SMR Automotive)               | Private | 1050                | Manufacturing         |
| 3                                                                         | St. Clair County                         | Public  | 988                 | Government            |
| 4                                                                         | Port Huron Area School District          | Public  | 873                 | Education             |
| 5                                                                         | DTE Energy                               | Public  | 747                 | Utility               |
| 6                                                                         | ZF Marysville                            | Private | 739                 | Manufacturing         |
| 7                                                                         | Lake Huron Medical Center                | Private | 614                 | Health Care           |
| 8                                                                         | US Farathane                             | Private | 610                 | Manufacturing         |
| 9                                                                         | Marysville Public School District        | Public  | 457                 | Education             |
| 10                                                                        | East China School District               | Public  | 425                 | Education             |
| 11                                                                        | St. Clair County RESA                    | Public  | 418                 | Education             |
| 12                                                                        | St. Clair County Community College (SC4) | Public  | 407                 | Education             |
| 13                                                                        | Total Life Changes                       | Private | 400                 | Retail                |
| 14                                                                        | St. Clair County Community Mental Health | Private | 383                 | Health Care / Service |
| 15                                                                        | Mueller Brass Forging Company            | Private | 362                 | Manufacturing         |
| 16                                                                        | Walmart Supercenter (Fort Gratiot)       | Private | 350                 | Retail                |
| 17                                                                        | Meijer (Marysville)                      | Private | 327                 | Retail                |
| 18                                                                        | Adler Pelzer Holding GmbH                | Private | 325                 | Retail                |
| 19                                                                        | Stellantis (Mopar)                       | Private | 300                 | Manufacturing         |
| 20                                                                        | PTM Corporation                          | Private | 292                 | Manufacturing         |
| 21                                                                        | Meijer (Fort Gratiot)                    | Private | 282                 | Retail                |
| 22                                                                        | City of Port Huron                       | Public  | 252                 | Government            |
| 23                                                                        | Aludyne                                  | Private | 250                 | Manufacturing         |
| 24                                                                        | Engineered Plastic Components CEPC       | Private | 240                 | Manufacturing         |
| 25                                                                        | Intertape Polymer Group                  | Private | 230                 | Manufacturing         |

**Table 42: St. Clair County: Top Employers (Date Retrieved: Sept. 6, 2023)**

## Housing and Homelessness

### Affordable Housing and Housing Shortage

Based on the [National Low-Income Housing Coalition](#) (NLIHC) April 2023 [The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes](#) report (using 2020 data), there is no single state in the United States that has an adequate supply of affordable rental homes for the lowest income renters. Nationwide, only 33 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 100 extremely low-income renter households.<sup>lxx</sup> The lack of affordable housing creates a cost burden for both renters and homeowners. “Cost burdened” is defined as spending more than 30 percent of one’s income on housing, and “severely cost burdened” as spending more than 50 percent of one’s income on housing.

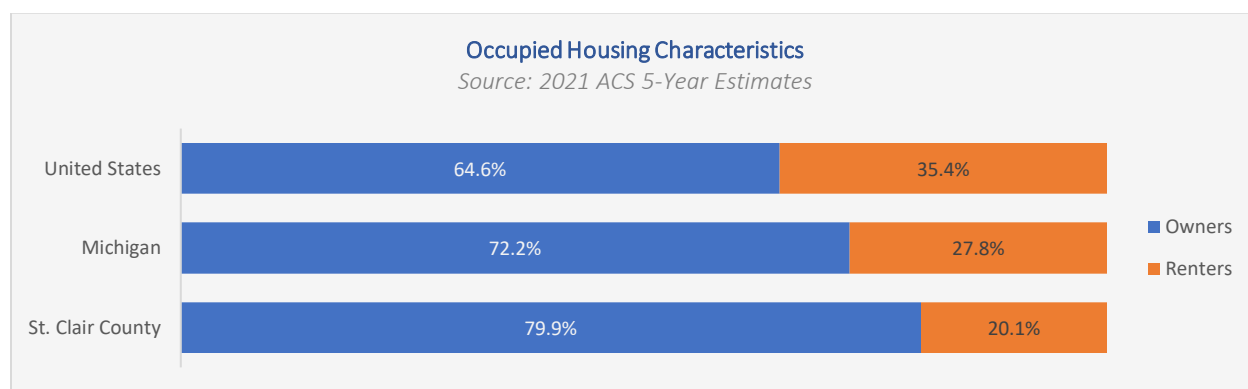
In Michigan, 86 percent of renter households with extremely low income (30 percent of the area median income, or AMI) are cost burdened, and 72 percent are severely cost burdened.<sup>lxxi</sup> Statewide there are only 36 affordable and available rental homes per 100 households at or below extremely low income.

### Housing Ownership

In the United States and Michigan, approximately two-thirds of all occupied housing units are owner-occupied, 64.6 and 72.2 percent, respectively (Table 43 and Figure 26). In St. Clair County, of the more than 65,000 occupied housing units, approximately 20 percent are renter-occupied, and 80 percent are owner-occupied.

| <b>Occupied Housing Characteristics</b>  |                               |                       |                        |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i> |                               |                       |                        |
|                                          | <b>Occupied housing units</b> | <b>Owner-occupied</b> | <b>Renter-occupied</b> |
| <b>United States</b>                     | 124,010,992                   | 80,152,161            | 43,858,831             |
| <b>Michigan</b>                          | 3,976,729                     | 2,870,693             | 1,106,036              |
| <b>St. Clair County</b>                  | 65,362                        | 52,219                | 13,143                 |

**Table 43: Occupied Housing Characteristic (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**



**Figure 26: Occupied Housing Characteristic (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Housing and Homelessness

##### Cost-Burdened Households

Based on U.S. Census data (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates), in the United States, Michigan, and St. Clair County, 21.8, 18.6 and 18.3 percent of owner-occupied households (with or without a mortgage), correspondingly, are cost-burdened, indicating 30 percent or more of household income is spent on housing. For renter-occupied households in the United States, Michigan, and St. Clair County, the estimates are higher; 46, 44.9, and 48 percent are determined to be cost-burdened, respectively (Figure 27).

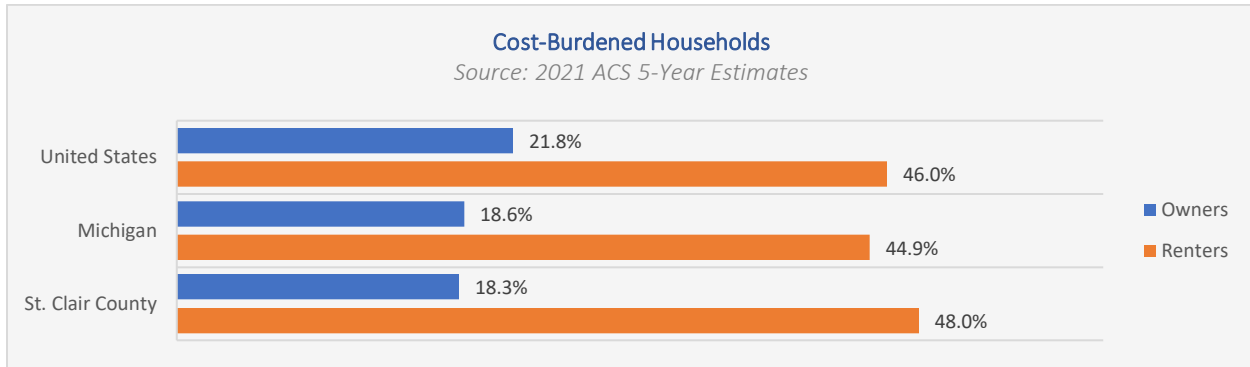


Figure 27: Cost-Burdened Households (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

##### Severely Cost-Burdened Households

Of owner-occupied households earning less than \$10,000 per year in the United States, Michigan, and St. Clair County, 63.4, 67.3, 68.8 percent, correspondingly, are severely cost-burdened, meaning more than 50 percent of household income is spent on housing (Figure 28).

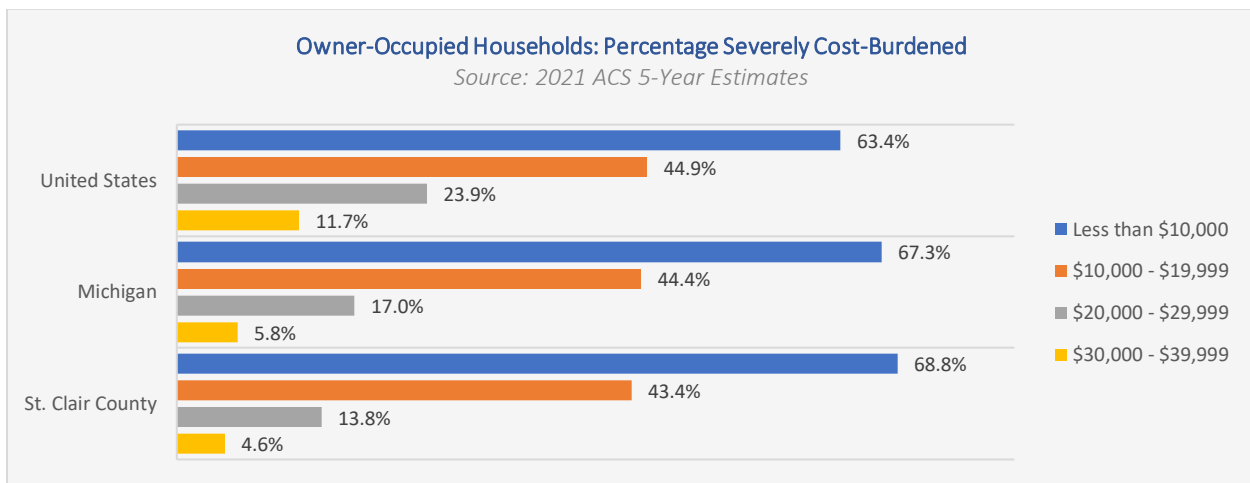
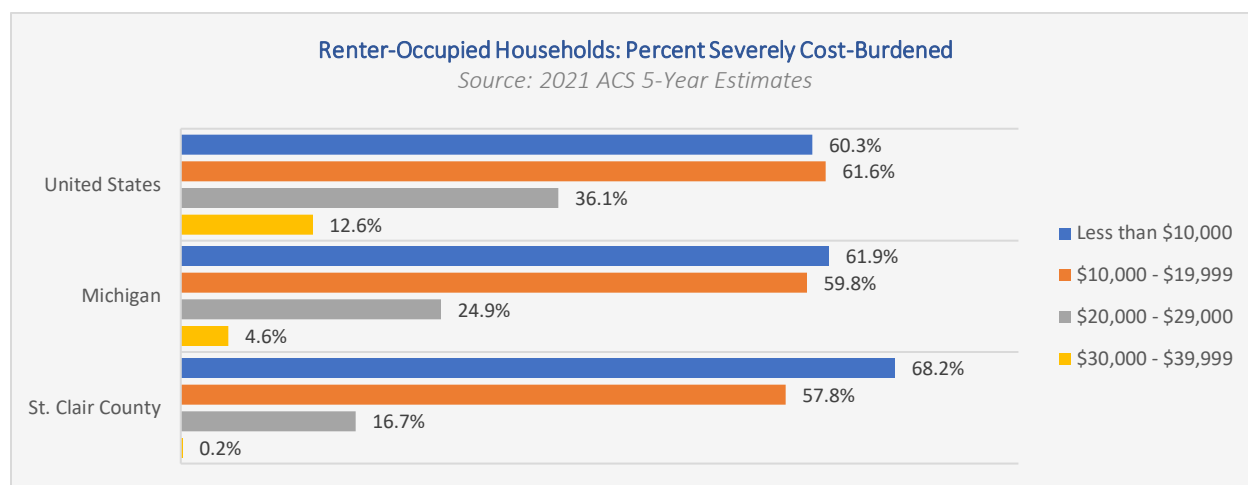


Figure 28: Owner-Occupied Households: Severely Cost-Burdened Households (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

In the United States, Michigan, and St. Clair County, 60.3, 61.9, and 68.2 percent of renter-occupied households earning less than \$10,000 per year, respectively, are severely cost-burdened (Figure 29).

**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?**  
*Housing and Homelessness*



**Figure 29: Renter-Occupied Households: Severely Cost-Burdened by Income (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

*Fair Market Rent*

According to the 2021 [National Low-Income Housing Coalition \(NLIHC\)](#) report, 27.8 percent of households in Michigan were renters; the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom home in Michigan is \$1,126 per month. To be able to rent a two-bedroom home, without exceeding 30 percent of a person's gross income as a recommended rule, a renter must earn \$45,025 annually; the median income for a renter in Michigan is \$41,812.<sup>lxvii</sup>

It is critical to point out that Head Start families and CSBG program recipients often do not earn wages typical of an average renter in the state. The NLIHC defines extremely low-income households as those with income at or below the poverty threshold, or 30 percent of AMI (median family income for the area of residence), whichever is higher. For Michigan this amount is \$27,337, which is \$2,663 less than the Poverty Guidelines level for a family of four (\$30,000). The rent that someone with "extremely low income" can afford is only \$683 per month, \$443 less than the fair market value of a two-bedroom home (Table 44).

| <b>Out of Reach: Fair Market Rental Values vs. Income (2021)</b>            |                 |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Source: National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)</i>                |                 |                         |
|                                                                             | <b>Michigan</b> | <b>St. Clair County</b> |
| <b>% of Total Households that are Renters (2016-2020)</b>                   | 27.8%           | 20.1%                   |
| <b>Two-Bedroom FMR</b>                                                      | \$1,126         | \$1,213                 |
| <b>Income Needed to Afford Two-Bedroom FMR</b>                              | \$45,025        | \$48,520                |
| <b>Estimated Median Renter Household Income</b>                             | \$41,812        | \$37,136                |
| <b>Rent Affordable at Median Renter Household Income</b>                    | \$1,045         | \$928                   |
| <b>30% of AMI</b>                                                           | \$27,337        | \$28,410                |
| <b>Rent Affordable at 30% of AMI</b>                                        | \$683           | \$710                   |
| <b>Rent Affordable with Full-Time Job Paying Minimum Wage</b>               | \$525           | \$525                   |
| <b>Work Hours Per Week at Minimum Wage Needed to Afford Two-Bedroom FMR</b> | 86              | 92                      |

**Table 44: Fair Market Rental Value vs. Income (2021)**

In Michigan, to afford the Fair Market Rent of a two-bedroom home, one must earn \$45,025, \$4,745 more than the Federal Poverty Level for a family of six, which is \$40,280.

This means that if one can afford to house their family of six in a two-bedroom home (without exceeding 30 percent of their income), they are over-income for Head Start services!

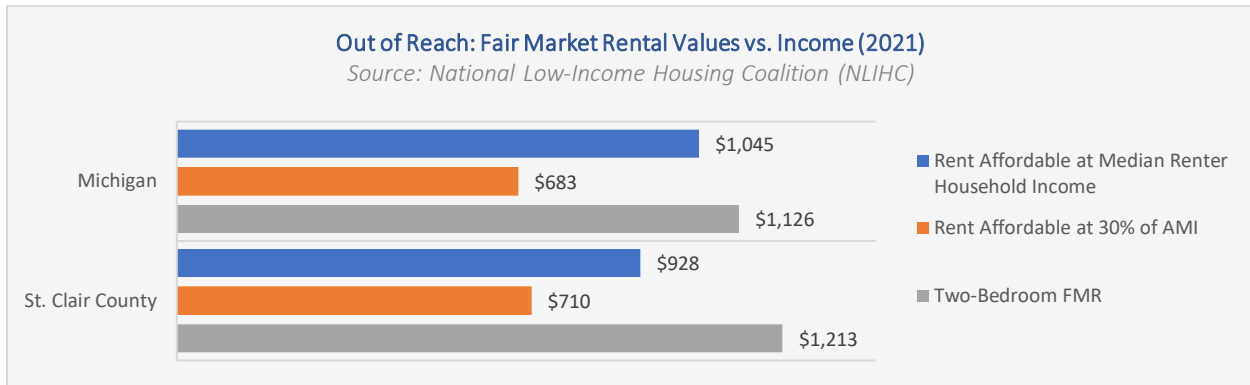
## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Housing and Homelessness

In St. Clair County 20.1 percent of households are renters. Rent affordable by a household classified as “extremely low income” in St. Clair County is \$710 per month, \$503 less than the fair market value of a two-bedroom home. For those working a full-time job and earning minimum wage, affordable rent is not more than \$525 per month, \$688 less than the fair market rental value of a two-bedroom home.

The high cost of homeownership and rental units continues to make it difficult for low-income families to access affordable housing. **In St. Clair County, those earning minimum wage must work 92 hours per week** to afford a two-bedroom home at fair market rental value.



**Figure 30: FMR of Two-Bedroom Home vs. Income (2021)**

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Housing and Homelessness

#### Utilities

##### House Heating Fuel

In the United States just below half of all occupied housing units are heated using gas, 47.5 percent, and 39.8 percent are heated with electricity (Figure 31, Table 45). However, in Michigan and St. Clair County, 76 and 75.1 percent of all occupied housing units, respectively, are heated using gas; and a corresponding 10.6 and 8.6 percent are heated using electricity.

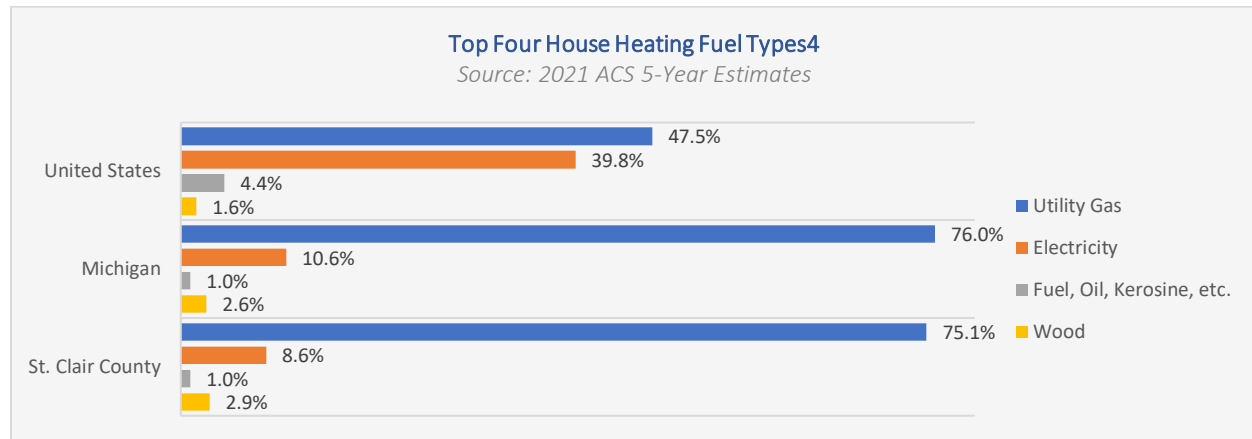


Figure 31: House Heating Fuel (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

| House Heating Fuel                |             |             |                           |      |              |            |              |              |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates |             |             |                           |      |              |            |              |              |
|                                   | Utility Gas | Electricity | Fuel, Oil, Kerosine, etc. | Wood | No Fuel Used | Other Fuel | Solar Energy | Coal or Coke |
| United States                     | 47.5%       | 39.8%       | 4.4%                      | 1.6% | 1.2%         | 0.5%       | 0.2%         | 0.1%         |
| Michigan                          | 76.0%       | 10.6%       | 1.0%                      | 2.6% | 0.5%         | 0.9%       | 0.0%         | 0.0%         |
| St. Clair County                  | 75.1%       | 8.6%        | 1.0%                      | 2.9% | 0.6%         | 0.7%       | 0.0%         | 0.0%         |

Table 45: House Heating Fuel (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Gas and electric heating are two common home heating solutions, with the use of both presenting pros and cons. According to *Forbes*, “cost, maintenance, efficiency, lifespan and safety” are key considerations in choosing whether to use a gas or electric heater to heat one’s home. Run on natural gas or propane gas, gas heaters circulate heat indoors and expel “dangerous gases” like carbon monoxide outside. Gas heaters can heat up quickly and are generally cost-effective, but they do require buried gas lines, can produce potentially harmful gases, and have a shorter lifespan of 15-20 years. Gas heaters burn hydrocarbons, making them less clean for the environment than electric heaters. Homes heated by electricity circulate heat produced by electric coils. With an average cost of gas heater installments at \$5,500, electric heaters are cheaper to install at an average of \$3,500 as most homes already run on electricity. Electric heaters do not require extensive hookups and can last 20-30 years, yet they are slower to produce heat and can be more expensive over time, “depending on local energy costs.”

According to *The Washington Post* the use of home heating is largely split regionally with the South using more electricity due to government funding and temperate weather, the Midwest using natural gas with propane in rural areas, and the Northeast often using fuel oil. *The New York Times* recommends using heat pumps, or “two-way air conditioners,” which use “half as much energy on average” as electric heaters, to combat the climate crisis. In warm weather, heat pumps draw heat out of a room and replace it with cool air, and in cold weather, they bring outside heat inside, efficiently circulating heat without the need to create it.

Forbes, Gas Heater vs. Electric Heater: Differences, Pros and Cons. <https://www.forbes.com/home-improvement/hvac/gas-heater-vs-electric-heater/>

Washington Post, U.S. Home Heating is Fractured in Surprising Ways. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/interactive/2023/home-electrification-heat-pumps-gas-furnace/>

The New York Times, A Heat Pump Might Be Right for Your Home. Here’s Everything to Know. <https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/guides/heat-pump-buying-guide/>

### *Energy Burden*

According to the [Department of Energy \(DOE\)](#), the energy burden (percentage of gross household income spent on energy) of low-income households in the United States is 8.6 percent, compared with 3 percent for non-low-income households.<sup>lxixiii</sup>

Based on data collected from the DOE's [Low-Income Energy Affordability Data \(LEAD\)](#) tool, households in Michigan and St. Clair County spend approximately 3 percent of their total income on energy. The average income for households in Michigan earning 0 to 100 percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is \$10,205. Energy cost for these households is approximately \$2,052, resulting in an energy burden of 20 percent. In St. Clair County the average income for families earning less than 100 percent of FPL is \$10,691, while average energy cost is \$1,963. Low-income residents in St. Clair County spend 18 percent of their income on energy.



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Housing and Homelessness

#### Housing Mobility

“Housing mobility programs help low-income families with children use Housing Choice Vouchers to move to high-opportunity neighborhoods. These neighborhoods often have less poverty, better schools, less crime, and more resources such as grocery stores and parks, which together promote better health and life satisfaction for parents and children and improve children’s chances of succeeding in school and earning more as adults. Evidence suggests many low-income families would like to move to high-opportunity communities, but barriers — including high housing costs, discrimination, and a shortage of willing landlords — often prevent them from doing so. Mobility programs give families more choices about where they can live, which is an important complement to investing in historically disadvantaged communities to create new opportunities for residents.

“Mobility programs help families use Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) to access high-opportunity neighborhoods through:

- **services** such as housing search assistance, informative briefings about neighborhoods and their potential impact on children, and landlord recruitment in high-opportunity areas;
- **short-term financial assistance** to help with moving costs such as rental application fees or security deposits; and
- **administrative policies** such as basing housing subsidies on more accurate local market rents and providing families adequate time to search for housing.”

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/what-are-housing-mobility-programs-and-why-are-they-needed>

#### Michigan Housing

- Housing Mobility Programs in the United States: <https://www.housingmobility.org/housing-mobility-programs-in-the-u-s-2022/>
- Just Shelter Community Resources: <https://justshelter.org/community-resources/>

#### Evictions and Foreclosures

Data on the number of evictions by state or county are difficult to obtain, for a variety of reasons. Data may not be collected or exist, or in some cases data are not accessible due to lack of standards or mandates to make data available to the public.<sup>lxxiv</sup>

A March 2021 article published by [Advisor Smith](#) ranked Michigan 19<sup>th</sup> of all U.S. states, with the highest percentage of renters at risk of eviction, 9.3 percent.<sup>lxxv</sup> Statewide 17.5 percent of households were behind on rent payments, 0.4 percent more than those behind on rent in the United States. The [University of Michigan](#) offers a tool to assess evictions by census tract within each of the state’s counties; however, the information is dated, including annual eviction filings from 2014 to 2018.

As reported by [Foreclosures.com](#), as of October 2023, there were 28,577 homes in foreclosure in Michigan, of which there were 375 homes in St. Clair County.<sup>lxxvi</sup> As of October 2023, more than 19,000 properties were in bankruptcy filing, of which 301 were in St. Clair County.<sup>lxxvii</sup>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### *Housing and Homelessness*

#### *Public Housing*

##### Public Housing

"Public housing was established to provide decent and safe rental housing for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Public housing comes in all sizes and types, from scattered single-family houses to high-rise apartments for elderly families. There are approximately 970,000\* households living in public housing units, managed by some 3,300 Housing Agencies (HAs). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers Federal aid to local HAs that manage housing for low-income residents at rents they can afford. HUD furnishes technical and professional assistance in planning, developing and managing these housing units.

"Public housing is limited to low-income families and individuals. An HA determines your eligibility based on 1) annual gross income; 2) whether you qualify as elderly, a person with a disability, or as a family; and 3) U.S. citizenship or eligible immigration status. If you are eligible, the HA will check your references to make sure you and your family will be good tenants. HAs will deny admission to any applicant whose habits and practices may be expected to have a detrimental effect on other tenants or on the project's environment."

\* The number of households changes daily within the Public and Indian Housing Inventory Management System (IMS-PIC).

##### Housing Choice Vouchers

"The housing choice voucher program is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Since housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses, and apartments.

"Eligibility for a housing voucher is determined by the HA based on the total annual gross income and family size, is limited to U.S. citizens and specified categories of non-citizens who have eligible immigration status. In general, the family's income may not exceed 50 percent of the median income for the county or metropolitan area in which the family chooses to live. By law, an HA must provide 75 percent of its vouchers to applicants whose incomes do not exceed 30 percent of the area median income."

##### Moderate Rehabilitation

"The moderate rehabilitation program provides project-based rental assistance for low-income families. The program was repealed in 1991, and no new projects are authorized for development. Assistance is limited to properties previously rehabilitated pursuant to a housing assistance payments (HAP) contract between an owner and a Public Housing Agency (PHA)."

##### Project-Based Section 8

"Project-Based Section 8 housing is a government-funded program that provides rental housing to low-income households in privately owned and managed rental units. The subsidy stays with the building; when someone moves out, they no longer have the rental assistance. Most units' rental cost will be 30 percent of household adjusted gross income. There may be a variety of housing types available through this program, including single-family homes, townhomes, or apartments.

"To qualify, tenants must fall within the Department of Housing and Urban Development's required income limits for the program. Example of rent at 30 percent income: a household with one full-time worker at \$7.25/hour might pay \$348 per month."

##### Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program

"HUD provides capital advances to finance the construction, rehabilitation or acquisition with or without rehabilitation of structures that will serve as supportive housing for very low-income elderly persons, including the frail elderly, and provides rent subsidies for the projects to help make them affordable."

##### Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program

"Through the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program, HUD provides funding to develop and subsidize rental housing with the availability of supportive services for very low- and extremely low-income adults with disabilities."

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, <https://www.hud.gov>

**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?**  
*Housing and Homelessness*

Based on data gathered from the [Office of Public Policy Development and Research \(PD&R\), under the Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#), in 2022 there were a total of 145,585 housing units available in Michigan within all HUD Programs. Of those housing units, 89 percent were occupied with 237,703 people. Average family expenditure for rent per month was \$335, and the average HUD expenditure per month was \$662. The average household income of those living in public housing programs in Michigan was \$14,102. Approximately one-third, or 29 percent of householders, were female heads of household with children, and 56 percent of residents were minorities.<sup>lxviii</sup>

Table 46 provides detailed information on the number of units available in all public housing programs in Michigan and St. Clair County. Additionally, it reports on the percentage of units that are occupied, the total number of residents, average expenditures per month (by families and HUD), household income, and the proportion of residents that were female-headed households and minorities.

| <b>Public Housing Programs (2022)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                           |                                |                         |                                     |                                        |                                        |                                                       |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)</i>                                                                                                                                                            |                                           |                                |                         |                                     |                                        |                                        |                                                       |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Subsidized<br/>Units<br/>Available</b> | <b>Percentage<br/>Occupied</b> | <b>Total<br/>People</b> | <b>Average<br/>HUD<br/>Exp./Mo.</b> | <b>Average<br/>Family<br/>Exp./Mo.</b> | <b>Annual<br/>Household<br/>Income</b> | <b>Female Head<br/>of Household<br/>with Children</b> | <b>Minority</b> |
| <b>Michigan</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                           |                                |                         |                                     |                                        |                                        |                                                       |                 |
| <b>Summary of All HUD Programs</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>145,585</b>                            | <b>89%</b>                     | <b>237,703</b>          | <b>\$662</b>                        | <b>\$335</b>                           | <b>\$14,102</b>                        | <b>29%</b>                                            | <b>56%</b>      |
| Housing Choice Vouchers                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 65,248                                    | 85%                            | 120,904                 | \$704                               | \$358                                  | \$14,266                               | 39%                                                   | 68%             |
| Project-Based Section 8                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 57,139                                    | 93%                            | 83,693                  | \$666                               | \$312                                  | \$13,482                               | 22%                                                   | 46%             |
| Public Housing                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 18,819                                    | 91%                            | 28,723                  | \$579                               | \$327                                  | \$15,294                               | 26%                                                   | 51%             |
| 202/PRAC                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 3,251                                     | 96%                            | 3,206                   | \$371                               | \$350                                  | \$15,585                               | 0%                                                    | 50%             |
| 811/PRAC                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 537                                       | 94%                            | 543                     | \$456                               | \$315                                  | \$13,350                               | 2%                                                    | 28%             |
| Mod Rehab                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 279                                       | 105%                           | 466                     | \$443                               | \$253                                  | \$10,514                               | 34%                                                   | 41%             |
| <b>St. Clair County</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                           |                                |                         |                                     |                                        |                                        |                                                       |                 |
| <b>Summary of All HUD Programs</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>2,405</b>                              | <b>92%</b>                     | <b>4,374</b>            | <b>\$641</b>                        | <b>\$350</b>                           | <b>\$14,721</b>                        | <b>33%</b>                                            | <b>22%</b>      |
| Housing Choice Vouchers                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1,130                                     | 87%                            | 2,313                   | \$717                               | \$373                                  | \$14,808                               | 42%                                                   | 31%             |
| Public Housing                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 676                                       | 99%                            | 1,164                   | \$522                               | \$342                                  | \$15,459                               | 24%                                                   | 14%             |
| Project-Based Section 8                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 504                                       | 96%                            | 802                     | \$688                               | \$318                                  | \$13,798                               | 30%                                                   | 18%             |
| 811/PRAC                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 95                                        | 93%                            | 95                      | \$444                               | \$319                                  | \$13,287                               | 1%                                                    | 11%             |
| <b>Missing data codes:</b> NA – Not Applicable, -1 – Missing, -4 – less than 11 reported households, -5 – less than 50 percent reporting, Table excludes data for the following housing programs: S236/BMIR and RentSup/RAP |                                           |                                |                         |                                     |                                        |                                        |                                                       |                 |

**Table 46: HUD Programs (2022)**

## Homelessness

### Point-in-Time Count

The Point-in-Time Count, required each year by the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#), is conducted to assist federal and state governments in determining how to allocate funding for housing, substance abuse, and mental health programs. The 2022 count reflected that on a single night in January, there were more than 580,000 homeless persons in the United States, of which 8,206 were in Michigan.

In the United States four out of 10 homeless persons were determined to be unsheltered, 40.1 percent, and more than one in four were homeless persons in families, 27.7 percent. In Michigan 11.0 percent of homeless persons were unsheltered, and 40.2 percent were homeless people in families.<sup>lxxix</sup>

“The [Point-in-Time \(PIT\)](#) Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. HUD requires that [Continuums of Care](#) conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Continuums of Care also must conduct a count of unsheltered homeless persons every other year (odd-numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally. The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serve persons who are homeless, categorized by five Program Types: Emergency Shelter; Transitional Housing; Rapid Re-housing; Safe Haven; and Permanent Supportive Housing.”

HUD Exchange, <https://www.hudexchange.info/>

| <b>Point-in-Time Count (2022)</b>    |                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Source: HUD Exchange</i>          |                      |                 |
|                                      | <b>United States</b> | <b>Michigan</b> |
| <b>Overall Homeless</b>              | 582,462              | 8,206           |
| <b>Unsheltered Homeless</b>          | 233,832              | 900             |
| <b>% Unsheltered Homeless</b>        | 40.1%                | 11.0%           |
| <b>Homeless People in Families</b>   | 161,070              | 3,302           |
| <b>% Homeless People in Families</b> | 27.7%                | 40.2%           |

**Table 47: Point-in-Time Count (2022)**

### Homeless Youth

In the United States, of the more than 580,000 homeless persons counted in January 2022, 30,090 were unaccompanied youth under the age of 25, an increase of 67.8 percent compared with the January 2021 count of 17,935. Nationwide, in 2022, there were 6,398 homeless parenting youth under the age of 25, with a total of 7,961 children, a respective increase of 6.1 and 7.3 percent over the January 2021 count.

In Michigan the count of unaccompanied youth increased by 18.7 percent from January 2021 to January 2022, reaching 451. Total parenting youth under age 25 decreased from 2021 to 2022 by 14.8 percent. The count of homeless children of parenting youth in the state decreased by 19.4 percent.<sup>lxxx</sup>

| <b>Point-in-Time Count – Homeless Youth (2021-22)</b>  |               |                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Source: HUD Exchange</i>                            |               |                      |                 |
|                                                        |               | <b>United States</b> | <b>Michigan</b> |
| <b>Overall Homeless Unaccompanied Youth (Under 25)</b> | <b>2021</b>   | 17,935               | 380             |
|                                                        | <b>2022</b>   | 30,090               | 451             |
|                                                        | <i>Change</i> | 67.8%                | 18.7%           |
| <b>Overall Homeless Parenting Youth (Under 25)</b>     | <b>2021</b>   | 6,029                | 142             |
|                                                        | <b>2022</b>   | 6,398                | 121             |
|                                                        | <i>Change</i> | 6.1%                 | -14.8%          |
| <b>Overall Homeless Children of Parenting Youth</b>    | <b>2021</b>   | 7,419                | 206             |
|                                                        | <b>2022</b>   | 7,961                | 166             |
|                                                        | <i>Change</i> | 7.3%                 | -19.4%          |

**Table 48: Homeless Youth (2021-22)**

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Housing and Homelessness

“The **McKinney-Vento** program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, State Educational Agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children, and youth. [...] In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment.”

“The McKinney-Vento Act defines ‘homeless children and youth’ as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes –

- Children and youth who are:
  - sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as *doubled-up*);
  - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
  - living in emergency or transitional shelters;
  - abandoned in hospitals; or
  - awaiting foster care placement;
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.”

National Center for Homeless Education, <https://nche.ed.gov/legislation/mckinney-vento/>

#### Michigan Homeless Education Program

According to [ED Data Express](#), in Michigan there were nearly 29,000 homeless students during the 2021-22 school year, of which 512 students were in St. Clair County.<sup>lxvii</sup> In Michigan and St. Clair County, the number of homeless students increased from 2020-21 to 2021-22.

##### Homeless Students (2020-21, 2021-22)

Source: U.S. Department of Education, ED Data Express

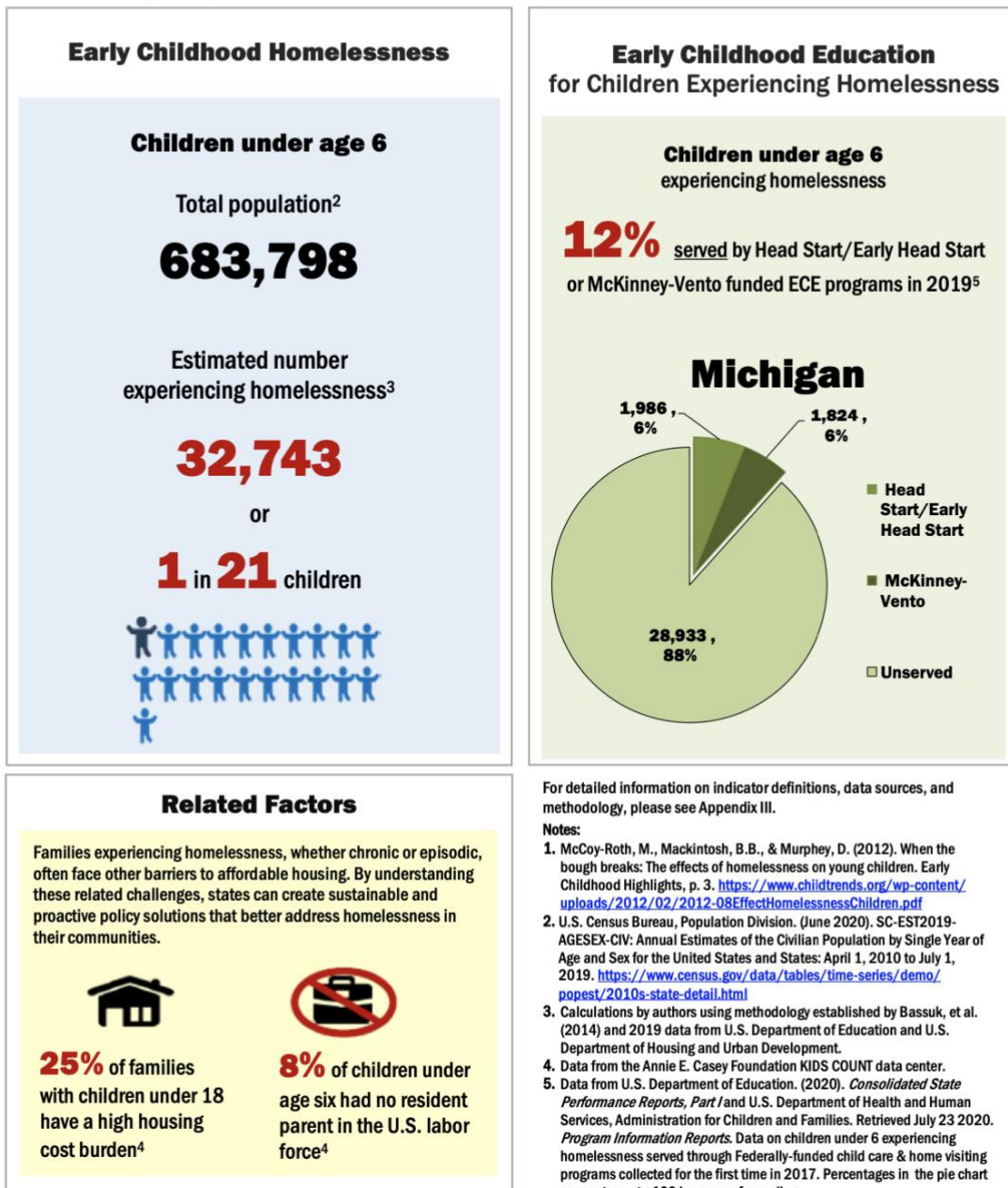
|                  | 2020-21   | 2021-22   |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| United States    | 1,087,283 | 1,295,259 |
| Michigan         | 26,867    | 28,724    |
| St. Clair County | 435       | 512       |

Table 49: Homeless Students (2019-21)

The figure below offers an infographic from the [Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: 50-State Profile](#) report issued by the Administration of Children and Families in May 2021, using 2018-19 U.S. Department of Education Data. The report indicates that in Michigan more than 32,000 children under the age of 6 were identified as homeless.

### Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles: **Michigan** (2018-19)

Early childhood experiences with homelessness have long lasting impacts on a child's well-being. Access to educational services can help mitigate some of these negative effects.<sup>1</sup> Federally-funded early childhood education (ECE) programs are only able to serve a small portion of children who experience homelessness. Taking action to mitigate the impacts of early childhood homelessness is critical to ensuring all young children have the opportunity to thrive.

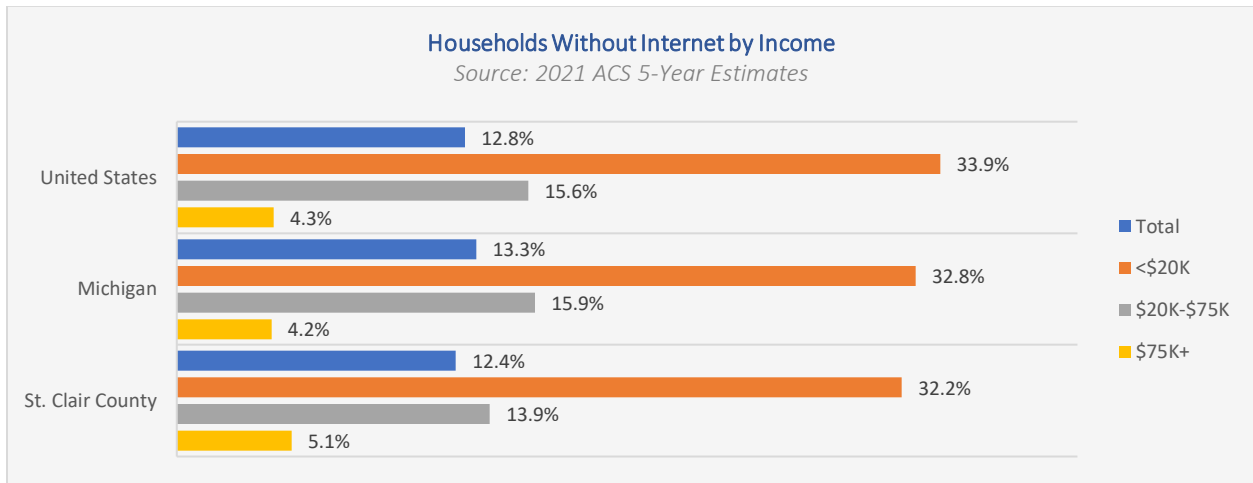


## Communication and Transportation

### Access to Internet and Computer Devices

#### Households Without an Internet Subscription

In the United States there are more than 124 million households in occupied housing units, of which 12.8 percent are without an internet subscription (Figure 32). In Michigan and St. Clair County, of the households in occupied housing units, 13.3 and 12.4 percent are without an internet subscription, respectively. Of the households in Michigan and St. Clair County earning less than \$20,000 a year, 32.8 and 32.2 percent, correspondingly, do not have an internet subscription.



**Figure 32: Households Without Internet by Income (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

#### Children Under Age 18 Without a Computer Device

According to U.S. census data there are more than 74 million children under the age of 18 in the United States, of which 2.3 percent do not have access to a computer device at all. In Michigan and St. Clair County, the percentage of children under age 18 without a computer device is 1.7 and 0.8 percent, respectively.



### Community Library Connection

Head Start and Early Head Start programs may find that developing partnerships with local libraries can greatly benefit the children and families they serve. Libraries provide services to clients across the spectrum of age, income, and service needs; they may offer access to computers and the internet, assistance with résumés, computer classes, and child/youth story time, among other services. According to [Gallup](#), visiting the library was the most common activity of the American public in 2019. The data collected by Gallup also shows that adults in lower income households visit libraries at higher frequencies, as libraries are, “free and offer a variety of services, including Wi-Fi.”<sup>lxxxii</sup>

Gregory Gilpin with the Brookings Institute stated that one in five Americans utilized public libraries for high-speed Wi-Fi access and, subsequently, in March 2020, when 99 percent of public libraries had to close due to COVID-19, access to those services was lost.<sup>lxxxiii</sup>

The [American Library Association](#) (ALA) publishes the [State of America’s Libraries](#) annually. This report examines libraries in the public, academic, and school sectors. In the State of America’s Libraries Report 2020, the ALA’s focus for public libraries was on wellness, health, and economic opportunity. According to the ALA:

“Libraries provide a diverse array of health literacy and awareness services for their communities. Public library collections offer materials on healthy lifestyles, cookbooks that address medical dietary needs, multimedia for physical exercise instruction, and self-help mental health materials. Some libraries take healthy lifestyle services even further by offering walking, hiking, bicycling, or running programs that take place outside the library building...hundreds of public libraries are encouraging community members to secure health insurance coverage through information dissemination, education, and partnerships.”<sup>lxxxiv</sup>

Since the COVID-19 vaccine became widely available and many libraries have re-opened, some libraries are hiring social workers to help provide social services to customers who may be homeless or need assistance applying for jobs or social service benefits. The ALA also envisions libraries as community partners for economic development. Per the State of America’s Libraries Report:

“Public libraries drive economic opportunity for their community members through skill development and small business support. Nearly 90 percent of public libraries offer digital literacy training programs, through which community members can learn résumé development and job searching and gain new skills to aid in career advancement.”<sup>lxxxv</sup>

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an organization that supports museums and libraries through grants, research and policy development. Through data collection, it maintains a Library Search and Compare function that allows the public to search for libraries by state, city, rural area, suburb or town. This search also allows users to research programs provided by individual libraries, populations served and number of visitors to individual libraries.

Institute of Museum and Library Services, <https://www.ims.gov/search-compare/>

Local public library access and services vary per state and county. The [St. Clair County Library System](#) provides information on its [locations](#) across the county and services available.<sup>lxxxvi</sup> Services include access to computers, free Wi-Fi, scanning, and printing. The St. Clair County Library System also offers assistive media and talking books, as well as a program called Home Connections for residents who are unable to



physically access the library. Children and Teen Library Services are available and can be accessed at their [website](#).

### Vehicle Ownership

Based on census data, of the more than 124 million households in occupied housing units in the United States, approximately 10 million, or 8.3 percent, do not own a vehicle (Table 50). In Michigan and St. Clair County, 7.3 and 5.6 percent of households in occupied housing do not own a vehicle, respectively.

| <b>Vehicle Ownership by Households</b>   |              |                                                         |                                                             |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i> |              |                                                         |                                                             |
|                                          | <b>Total</b> | <b>Number of Households Without Access to a Vehicle</b> | <b>Percentage of Households Without Access to a Vehicle</b> |
| <b>United States</b>                     | 124,010,992  | 10,349,174                                              | 8.3%                                                        |
| <b>Michigan</b>                          | 3,976,729    | 288,915                                                 | 7.3%                                                        |
| <b>St. Clair County</b>                  | 65,362       | 3,680                                                   | 5.6%                                                        |

**Table 50: Vehicle Ownership (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

### Public Transportation

The following are search tools for public transportation resources in the United States and St. Clair County:

- The search engine [US Bus Station](#) provides information about bus routes, bus stops, and bus companies per state and county.
- [The American Transportation Association](#) offers information on larger transit agencies, all transit agencies, and local links (by county and city), rail, ferry, statewide, intercity, and regional.
- [Blue Water Area Transit](#) provides seven fixed bus routes in the City of Port Huron and Fort Gratiot Township, with door-side service available to residents in Burtchville, Port Huron, Fort Gratiot, and Marysville when scheduled in advance.

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Disabilities

## Disabilities

### Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The nation's special education law is called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA. IDEA defines the term "child with a disability" in order to make special education and related services available to children with disabilities in public schools and Head Start programs. That definition includes specific disability terms, which are also defined by IDEA.<sup>lxxxvii</sup> Based on data collected from the [IDEA Data Center](#), more than 11,000 infants and toddlers, ages 0 through 2, were served by early intervention programs in Michigan, accounting for 3.4 percent of the birth through age 2 population. In the United States, 3.7 percent of the population, ages 0 through 2, is served under IDEA, Part C programs (Table 51).<sup>lxxxviii</sup>

#### IDEA Part C: Early Intervention, Ages 0-2 (2021-22)

Source: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

|                         | Birth to 1 Year | 1 to 2 Years | 2 to 3 Years | Total Served Birth Through 2 Years | Percentage of Population, <sup>1</sup> Birth Through 2 Years |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| U.S. and Outlying Areas | 44,921          | 119,762      | 241,317      | 406,000                            | 3.7%                                                         |
| Michigan                | 1,291           | 3,332        | 6,407        | 11,030                             | 3.4%                                                         |

<sup>1</sup> Percentage of population = Number of infants and toddlers, birth through age 2, served under IDEA, Part C, divided by the estimated U.S. resident population, birth through age 2, multiplied by 100.

Table 51: IDEA Part C: Early Intervention, Ages 0-2 (2021-22)

As reported by the IDEA Data Center, during the 2021-22 school year, more than 11,300 children, ages 3 to 5, received special education assistance in Michigan. The largest group of children received special education for speech or language impairments, followed by developmental delay (Table 52).

#### IDEA Part B: Assistance for All Children with Disabilities, Ages 3-5 (2021-22)

Source: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

|                                | U.S., Outlying Areas | Michigan |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| All Disabilities               | 471,377              | 11,312   |
| Developmental Delay            | 216,727              | 2,480    |
| Speech or Language Impairments | 158,832              | 6,457    |
| Autism                         | 60,945               | 1,270    |
| Other Health Impairments       | 11,376               | 556      |
| Intellectual Disabilities      | 5,255                | 53       |
| Hearing Impairments            | 5,166                | 125      |
| Multiple Disabilities          | 3,611                | 194      |
| Orthopedic Impairments         | 2,510                | 126      |
| Visual Impairments             | 1,372                | 38       |
| Traumatic Brain Injury         | 609                  | 8        |
| Specific Learning Disabilities | 350                  | 3        |
| Emotional Disturbance          | 254                  | 1        |
| Deaf-Blindness                 | 156                  | 1        |

Table 52: IDEA Part B: Child Count, Ages 3-5 (2021-22)

"The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes a free and appropriate public education available to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children.

"IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.

"Infants and toddlers, birth through age 2, with disabilities and their families receive early intervention services under IDEA Part C. Children and youth, ages 3 through 21, receive special education and related services under IDEA Part B."

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/about-idea/>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Disabilities

#### Michigan School System

According to data retrieved from [MI School Data](#), during the fall of 2022 there nearly 210,000 students enrolled with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), approximately 14 percent of the student body. In St. Clair County public school districts, a total of nearly 2,700 students were enrolled with an IEP, between 9.4 and 19.5 percent of the student body.

| Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Enrollment (Fall 2022) |         |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------|
| Source: MI School Data                                     |         |            |
|                                                            | Number  | Percentage |
| <b>Michigan</b>                                            | 209,937 | 14.0%      |
| <i>Algonac Community School District</i>                   | 226     | 16.1%      |
| <i>Capac Community Schools</i>                             | 148     | 19.5%      |
| <i>East China School District</i>                          | 638     | 17.0%      |
| <i>Marysville Public Schools</i>                           | 253     | 9.4%       |
| <i>Memphis Community Schools</i>                           | 146     | 19.0%      |
| <i>Port Huron Area School District</i>                     | 1,022   | 14.0%      |
| <i>Yale Public Schools</i>                                 | 265     | 14.9%      |

**Table 53: IEP Enrollment (Fall 2022)**

In Michigan the majority of children with an IEP were diagnosed with a speech and language impairment, followed by a specific learning disability; in the St. Clair school districts, the greatest proportion of children with an IEP were diagnosed with a specific learning disability, followed by speech or language impairment (Table 54 and Figure 33). Table 54 provides data per type of disability for Michigan and the school districts in St. Clair County.

| Special Education (Fall 2022)              |          |                                   |                         |                            |                           |                           |                                 |                     |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Source: MI School Data                     |          |                                   |                         |                            |                           |                           |                                 |                     |
|                                            | Michigan | Algonac Community School District | Capac Community Schools | East China School District | Marysville Public Schools | Memphis Community Schools | Port Huron Area School District | Yale Public Schools |
| <b>Speech &amp; Language Impairment</b>    | 27.5%    | 23.0%                             | 25.0%                   | 33.1%                      | 40.7%                     | 8.2%                      | 31.7%                           | 32.1%               |
| <b>Specific Learning Disability</b>        | 25.9%    | 35.0%                             | 35.1%                   | 27.0%                      | 26.5%                     | 8.5%                      | 15.9%                           | 35.8%               |
| <b>Other Health Impairment</b>             | 14.4%    | 20.4%                             | 16.2%                   | 18.0%                      | 3.6%                      | -                         | 21.2%                           | 13.2%               |
| <b>Autism Spectrum Disorder</b>            | 12.0%    | 9.3%                              | 6.1%                    | 7.7%                       | 12.6%                     | 1.1%                      | 9.3%                            | 2.6%                |
| <b>Cognitive Impairment</b>                | 7.9%     | 3.5%                              | 4.7%                    | 3.1%                       | 8.7%                      | -                         | -                               | -                   |
| <b>Emotional Impairment</b>                | 4.9%     | 3.5%                              | -                       | -                          | -                         | 0.8%                      | 2.5%                            | -                   |
| <b>Early Childhood Developmental Delay</b> | 3.9%     | 4.0%                              | 9.5%                    | 6.1%                       | 3.2%                      | -                         | 6.2%                            | 6.0%                |
| <b>Severe Multiple Impairment</b>          | 1.3%     | -                                 | -                       | 0.0%                       | 0.0%                      | -                         | 0.0%                            | -                   |
| <b>Hearing Impairment</b>                  | 1.0%     | -                                 | -                       | 1.6%                       | 2.0%                      | -                         | 1.3%                            | -                   |
| <b>Physical Impairment</b>                 | 0.6%     | -                                 | -                       | -                          | -                         | -                         | 0.0%                            | -                   |
| <b>Visual Impairment</b>                   | 0.3%     | -                                 | -                       | -                          | -                         | -                         | 0.0%                            | -                   |
| <b>Traumatic Brain Injury</b>              | 0.2%     | -                                 | -                       | -                          | -                         | -                         | 0.5%                            | -                   |
| <b>Deaf-Blindness</b>                      | -        | -                                 | -                       | -                          | -                         | -                         | -                               | -                   |

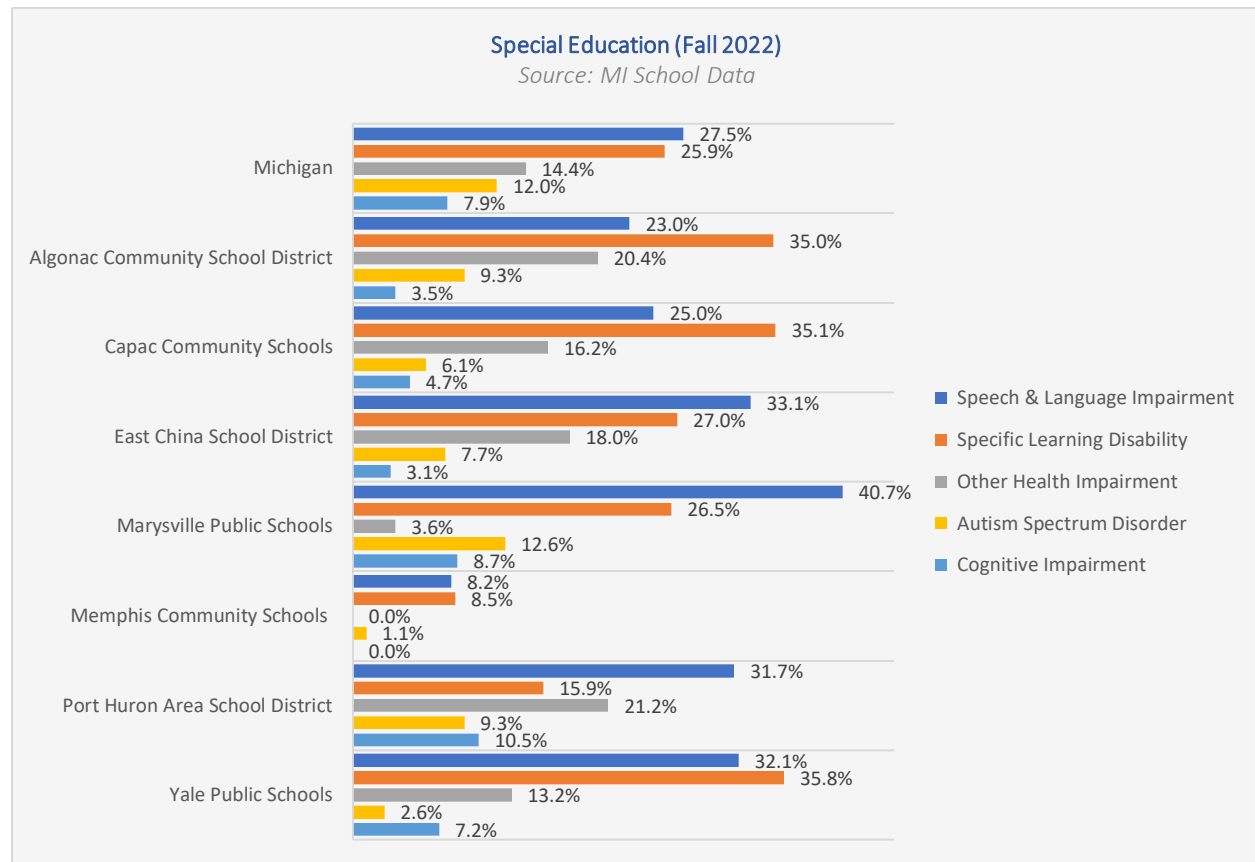
Note: "-" indicates less than 5 students

**Table 54: Special Education (Fall 2022)**

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Disabilities



**Figure 33: Special Education (Fall 2022)**

## Health and Wellness

### WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**“Many factors combined affect the health of individuals and communities.** Whether a person is healthy or unhealthy is determined by his/her circumstances and environment. To a large extent, factors such as where we live, the state of our environment, genetics, our income and education level, and our relationships with friends and family all have considerable impact on health, whereas the more commonly considered factors such as access and use of health care services often have less of an impact.

**The determinants of health include:**

- the social and economic environment,
- the physical environment, and
- the person’s individual characteristics and behaviors.

The context of people’s lives determines their health, and so blaming individuals for having poor health or crediting them for good health is inappropriate. Individuals are unlikely to be able to directly control many of the determinants of health. These determinants—or things that make people healthy or not—include the above factors, and many others:

**Income and social status** – higher income and social status are linked to better health. The greater the gap between the richest and poorest people, the greater the differences in health.

**Education** – low education levels are linked with poor health, more stress and lower self-confidence.

**Physical environment** – safe water and clean air, healthy workplaces, safe houses, communities and roads all contribute to good health.

**Employment and working conditions** – people in employment are healthier, particularly those who have more control over their working conditions.

**Social support networks** – greater support from families, friends and communities is linked to better health.

**Culture** – customs and traditions, and the beliefs of the family and community all affect health.

**Genetics** – inheritance plays a part in determining lifespan, healthiness and the likelihood of developing certain illnesses.

**Personal behavior and coping skills** – balanced eating, keeping active, smoking, drinking, and how we deal with life’s stresses and challenges all affect health.

**Health services** – access and use of services that prevent and treat disease influences health.

**Gender** – men and women suffer from different types of diseases at different ages.”

World Health Organization, <https://www.who.int/>

## Environmental Factors

Safe water and clean air are critical environmental factors that contribute to the health and well-being of a community. The [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#)’s mission is to protect health and the environment. EPA provides information and data on a wide range of environmental subjects, such as air and water quality. Through [MyEnvironment](#) information can be found on numerous environmental subjects per location.

## Drinking Water Quality

The [Safe Drinking Water Act](#) requires states to report drinking water information periodically to the [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA). Data on public water systems by state, city, town, county, or water system can be found through the [Safe Drinking Water Information System \(SDWIS\) Federal Reporting Systems](#).

### Drinking Water Violations Include:

- “Failed to follow established monitoring and reporting schedules
- Failed to comply with mandated treatment techniques
- Violated any Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)
- Failed to communicate required information to their customers”

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, [Epa.gov](#)

**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?**  
*Health and Wellness*

According to data retrieved from SDWIS, in Michigan there are more than 31,000 public water facilities, of which 314 serve the population in St. Clair County. As of the first quarter in 2023, the 314 public water facilities in St. Clair County received 562 site visits, which recorded 927 violations (1 percent of the state total) (Table 55).<sup>lxxxix</sup>

| <b>Public Water Systems (2023)</b>                            |                          |      |                                          |      |                    |      |                   |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------|------------------------------------------|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| <i>Source: Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)</i> |                          |      |                                          |      |                    |      |                   |      |
|                                                               | <b>Population Served</b> |      | <b>Number and Percent of State Total</b> |      |                    |      |                   |      |
|                                                               | <b>Count</b>             |      | <b>Facilities</b>                        |      | <b>Site Visits</b> |      | <b>Violations</b> |      |
| <b>Michigan</b>                                               | 8,815,508                | X    | 31,815                                   | X    | 51,868             | X    | 89,385            | X    |
| <b>St. Clair County</b>                                       | 131,479                  | 1.5% | 314                                      | 1.0% | 562                | 1.1% | 927               | 1.0% |

**Table 55: Public Water Systems (2023)**

### Air Quality



In November of 2021 [ProPublica](#) conducted an analysis of how much toxic air pollution is emitted from industrial sites posing an increased risk of cancer for surrounding areas. The analysis identified 1,000 hotspots where an increased risk of cancer for communities is unacceptable to EPA. An [interactive map](#) presents the identified hotspots.

Air agencies provide additional information about the air quality in an area using a uniform reporting system and Air Quality Index (AQI).

“The AQI focuses on health effects that may be experienced within hours or days after exposure to polluted air. It uses a normalized scale from 0 to 500: the higher the AQI value, the greater the level of pollution and the greater the health concern.”<sup>xc</sup>

According to the annual summary data of 2022 by the EPA, in St. Clair County there were 175 days in 2022 with an assigned air quality index value. Of those days, 74.3 percent were rated as “good days,” 24.6 percent were rated as “moderate days,” and 2 days as “unhealthy for sensitive groups.”

For context, in Los Angeles County, California only 11.2 percent of days with an AQI were calculated as “good days,” 62.2 percent calculated as “moderate days,” and 20.5 percent as “unhealthy for sensitive groups.”

#### Air Quality Index (AQI) Values

| Numerical Value | AQI Levels of Health Concern   | Meaning                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0-50            | Good                           | Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.                                                                                             |
| 51-100          | Moderate                       | Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution. |
| 101-150         | Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups | Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.                                                                    |
| 151-200         | Unhealthy                      | Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.                                                       |
| 201-300         | Very Unhealthy                 | Health alert: everyone may experience some serious health effects.                                                                                                             |
| 301-500         | Hazardous                      | Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.                                                                                  |

United States Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/outdoor-air-quality-data/air-data-basic-information>

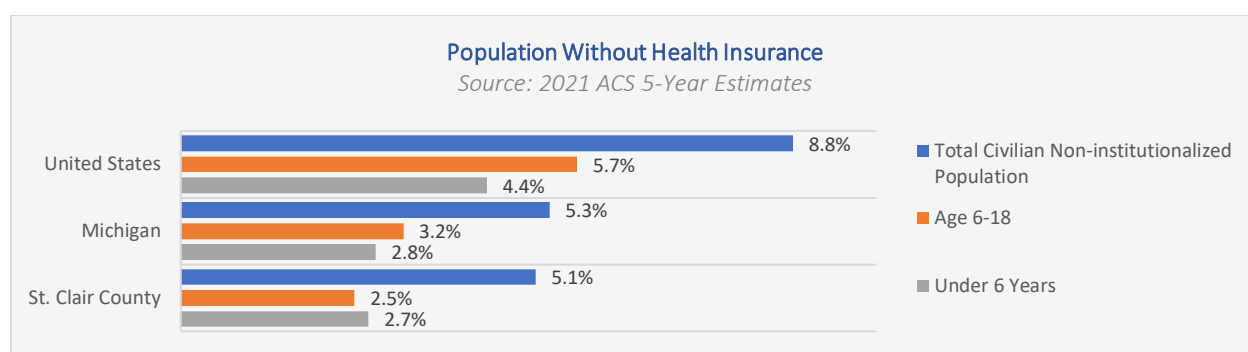
## Health Insurance and Access to Care

### Population Without Health Insurance

Based on census data, 8.8 percent of the United States civilian noninstitutional population lacks health insurance. In Michigan and St. Clair County 5.3 and 5.1 percent of the civilian noninstitutional population, respectively, lacks health insurance (Figure 34). In Michigan and St. Clair County, 3.2 and 2.5 percent of children, ages 6 to 18, respectively, and a corresponding 2.8 and 2.7 percent of children under the age of 6 lack health insurance.

“Civilian noninstitutional population: Persons 16 years of age and older residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, who are not inmates of institutions (e.g., penal and mental facilities, homes for the aged), and who are not on active duty in the Armed Forces.”

U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/>



**Figure 34: Population Without Health Insurance Coverage (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

### Medicaid Enrollment

According to the [Michigan Department of Health & Human Services](#) (MDHHS), during the month of July in 2023 there were more than 1.2 million Medicaid-eligible cases with more than 2.1 million recipients (Table 56).<sup>xc1</sup> In St. Clair County there were 19,381 Medicaid-eligible cases with more than 33,000 recipients. Table 56 provides the number of cases and recipients per type of eligibility for Medicaid.

| <b>Total Eligible Medicaid Cases and Recipients (July 2023)</b>  |                   |                 |                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Source: Michigan Department of Health and Humans Services</i> |                   |                 |                         |
|                                                                  |                   | <b>Michigan</b> | <b>St. Clair County</b> |
| <b>Medicaid-Eligible Total</b>                                   | <i>Cases</i>      | 1,234,843       | 19,381                  |
|                                                                  | <i>Recipients</i> | 2,179,983       | 33,614                  |
| <b>Family Medicaid</b>                                           | <i>Cases</i>      | 442,988         | 6,955                   |
|                                                                  | <i>Recipients</i> | 916,11          | 13,867                  |
| <b>Other Children Under 21 Years</b>                             | <i>Cases</i>      | 72,992          | 1,368                   |
|                                                                  | <i>Recipients</i> | 75,947          | 1,404                   |
| <b>Pregnant Women &amp; Children Under 19 Years</b>              | <i>Cases</i>      | 345,616         | 5,538                   |
|                                                                  | <i>Recipients</i> | 606,855         | 9,566                   |
| <b>MiChild</b>                                                   | <i>Cases</i>      | 35,592          | 542                     |
|                                                                  | <i>Recipients</i> | 50,067          | 801                     |
| <b>Non-SSI Aged, Blind &amp; Disabled</b>                        | <i>Cases</i>      | 279,536         | 4,761                   |
|                                                                  | <i>Recipients</i> | 286,544         | 4,829                   |
| <b>SSI Aged, Blind &amp; Disabled</b>                            | <i>Cases</i>      | 252,194         | 3,260                   |
|                                                                  | <i>Recipients</i> | 252,194         | 3,260                   |

**Table 56: Medicaid-Eligible Cases and Recipients (2023)**

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Health and Wellness

According to the [Michigan Department of Health & Human Services](#) (MDHHS), during the month of July 2023 there were more than 974,000 cases eligible for health care benefits from the Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) with nearly 1.1 million recipients.<sup>xci</sup> In St. Clair County there were 15,467 cases eligible for health care benefits with 17,613 recipients.

#### Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP)

"The Healthy Michigan Plan provides health care benefits to Michigan residents at a low cost so that more people can have health care coverage. Individuals are eligible for the Healthy Michigan Plan if they:

- Are age 19-64 years
- Have income at or below 133% of the federal poverty level\* (about \$18,000 for a single person or \$37,000 for a family of four)
- Do not qualify for or are not enrolled in Medicare
- Do not qualify for or are not enrolled in other Medicaid programs
- Are not pregnant at the time of application
- Are residents of the State of Michigan

\*Eligibility for the Healthy Michigan Plan is determined through the Modified Adjusted Gross Income methodology."

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, <https://www.michigan.gov/healthymiplan>

The following links provide comprehensive provider directories accepting Medicaid/MiChild and Medicare:

[MEDICAID / MICHILD PROVIDER DIRECTORY](#)

[MEDICARE](#)



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Health and Wellness

##### Health Professional Shortage Areas

The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) provides data on health care programs that provide health care to people who are geographically isolated and economically or medically vulnerable. One of the datasets reports on Health Professional Shortage Areas, or HPSAs. The three categories measured within HPSAs are primary care, dental health care, and mental health care. To be considered a primary care HPSA, the population-to-provider ratio must be 3,500:1, a dental care HPSA has a population-to-provider ratio of 5,000:1, and a mental health care HPSA must have a population-to-psychiatrist ratio of 30,000:1. HPSA designations can be determined as follows:<sup>xciii</sup>

- A **geographic location** (a county or service area) with a shortage of providers for the entire population in that area,
- A **population group** within a geographic area (for example: low-income population, Medicaid-eligible population, migrant population, homeless population) with a shortage of providers,
- Or a **facility** (for example: comprehensive health center, correctional facility, federally qualified health center or other public facility) with a shortage of providers.

In St. Clair County there are a total of five HPSAs, two primary care HPSAs, one dental health HPSA, and two mental health HPSAs. Three of the five HPSAs are located in Downriver Community Service, Inc., designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center. The clinic lacks primary care, dental health, and mental health care providers to adequately serve the community. The county also reports two low-income HPSAs, one primary care HPSA and one mental health HPSA. This designation indicates that the population earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level is underserved.<sup>xciv</sup>

| Health Professional Shortage Areas (July 2023)  |                                    |                                   |                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Source: Health Resources Service Administration |                                    |                                   |                              |
| HPSA Discipline Class                           | HPSA Name                          | Designation Type                  | HPSA Designation Last Update |
| Primary Care                                    | Downriver Community Services, Inc. | Federally Qualified Health Center | 09/10/2021                   |
| Primary Care                                    | LI - St. Clair/Sanilac Counties    | HPSA Population                   | 09/10/2021                   |
| Dental Health                                   | Downriver Community Services, Inc. | Federally Qualified Health Center | 09/10/2021                   |
| Mental Health                                   | Downriver Community Services, Inc. | Federally Qualified Health Center | 09/10/2021                   |
| Mental Health                                   | LI - St. Clair County              | HPSA Population                   | 09/10/2021                   |
| LI = Low Income                                 |                                    |                                   |                              |

Table 57: Health Professional Shortage Areas (July 2023)

##### Dentist-to-Population Ratio

As per the [2023 County Health Rankings](#) (utilizing 2021 data), in Michigan there were 7,897 dentists, of which 99 were in St. Clair County. The ratio of dentists per residents in Michigan was 1 to 1,273, and in St. Clair County the ratio was 1 to 1,617 residents.

##### Find a Dentist

[InsureKidsNow.gov](#) provides information on free- or low-cost health and dental coverage for children and teenagers through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. To find a pediatric dentist who accepts Medicaid and CHIP, use the [Dentist Locator](#).

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Health and Wellness

#### Mental Health

[Mental Health America](#) has created a [County and State Data Map dashboard](#) “that geographically visualizes data from over 4.5 million mental health screens taken at MHAScreening.org in 2020-2023. The interactive maps are able to identify the current need for mental health resources at a pace and scale that was not possible before.”

Based on mental health screens conducted in 2023, in Michigan there were nearly 3,000 individuals who indicated experiencing severe depression, of which 52 individuals were in St. Clair County. The rate of individuals experiencing severe depression in Michigan and St. Clair County per 100,000 individuals was 29.3 and 32.2, respectively (Table 58 and Figure 35).

More than 3,100 individuals, statewide, expressed experiencing suicidal ideation, of which 49 individuals were in St. Clair County. The rate of individuals per 100,000 experiencing suicidal ideation in Michigan and St. Clair County was 31.6 and 30.3, correspondingly.

In Michigan, of those who participated in the health screens, 1,350 individuals expressed suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, a rate of 13.4 per 100,000 individuals. In St. Clair County 17 individuals expressed suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, a rate of 10.5 per 100,000 individuals.

More than 7,000 individuals in Michigan self-identified as trauma survivors, of which 105 individuals were in St. Clair County. The rates of those identifying as trauma survivors in Michigan and St. Clair County were 69.8 and 65 per 100,000 individuals, respectively.

Finally, in Michigan more than 1,500 individuals indicated having psychotic-like experiences, of which 23 individuals were St. Clair County. The rates of individuals reporting psychotic-like experiences per 100,000 residents in Michigan and St. Clair County were 15.2 and 14.2, correspondingly.

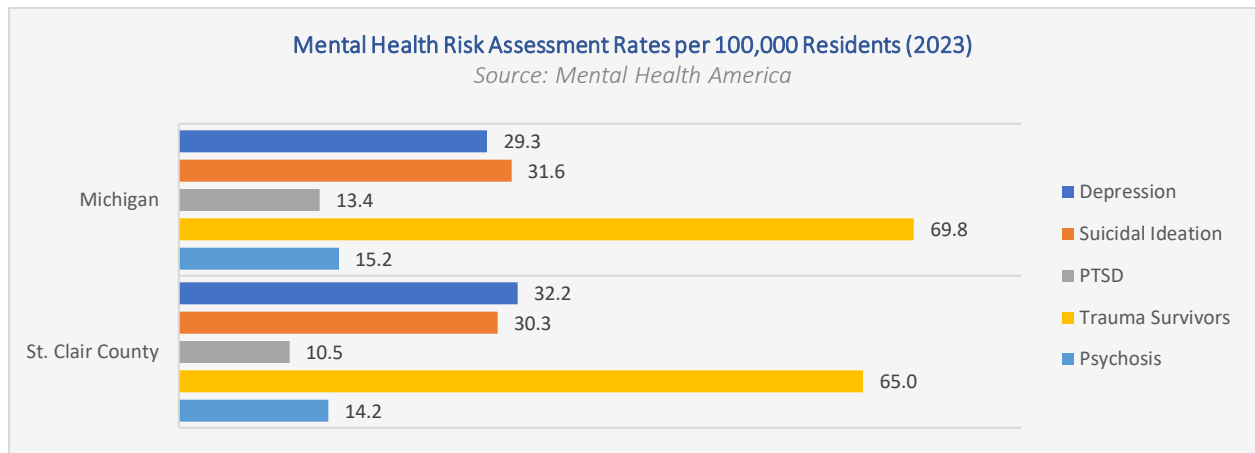
| <b>Mental Health Risk Assessment (2023)</b>                      |          |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| <i>Source: Mental Health America</i>                             |          |                  |
|                                                                  | Michigan | St. Clair County |
| <b>Depression</b>                                                |          |                  |
| Total Number of People Scoring Severe Depression                 | 2,945    | 52               |
| Total # of People Scoring Severe Depression per 100K Population  | 29.3     | 32.2             |
| <b>Suicidal Ideation</b>                                         |          |                  |
| Total Reporting Frequent Suicidal Ideation                       | 3,179    | 49               |
| Total # Reporting Frequent Suicidal Ideation per 100K Population | 31.6     | 30.3             |
| <b>PTSD</b>                                                      |          |                  |
| Total Scoring Positive for PTSD                                  | 1,350    | 17               |
| Total # Scoring Positive for PTSD per 100K Population            | 13.4     | 10.5             |
| <b>Trauma Survivors</b>                                          |          |                  |
| Total # Identifying as Trauma Survivors                          | 7,011    | 105              |
| # Identifying as Trauma Survivors per 100K Population            | 69.8     | 65.0             |
| <b>Psychosis</b>                                                 |          |                  |
| Total Scoring at Risk for Psychotic-Like Experienced             | 1,525    | 23               |
| Total Scoring at Risk per 100K Population                        | 15.2     | 14.2             |

Table 58: Mental Health Risk Assessment (2023)

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Health and Wellness



**Figure 35: Mental Health Risk Assessment Rates per 100,000 Residents (2023)**

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Health and Wellness

#### Immunizations

“Vaccination is an important part of keeping children healthy and protected from potentially serious diseases like measles and whooping cough. CDC’s recommended immunization schedule helps protect children from 14 serious diseases by the time they reach 2 years old.

“Local, state, and federal health departments use surveys and other data sources such as immunization information systems (IISs) to estimate vaccination coverage (the proportion of children receiving vaccinations) and identify where additional efforts are needed to increase vaccination coverage.”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <https://www.cdc.gov/>

#### ChildVaxView

[ChildVaxView](#), created by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provides national, regional, state, and selected local area vaccination coverage estimates for 2-year-old and 3-year-old children by birth year using interactive maps, trend lines, bar charts, and data tables.<sup>xcv</sup>

According to Childhood Vaccination Coverage Trend Report, in Michigan 68 percent of 2-year-olds born in 2019 completed the Combined 7 series vaccination coverage compared with 70.1 percent of 2-year-olds in the United States. For 3-year-olds, the percentage was lower for Michigan than the United States at 73.4 and 76.4 percent, respectively. (Data was not available at county level.) For more information on specific vaccinations administered by age, visit: [ChildVaxView](#).

#### Michigan Health and Human Services

[Michigan Health and Human Services](#) gathers state and county level data on immunization coverage for all age groups, 19-35 months, 13-17 years, and adults.<sup>x cvi</sup> Furthermore, they provide reports on [school immunization status by building](#) across the state. For St. Clair County the School Completion Rate for immunization is 88.2, compared with the state at 91.4, and the Child Care Completion Rate for Immunization is 83.4, compared with the state at 85.1.<sup>x cvii</sup>

Please use the [following link](#) to access in-depth data compiled into County Immunization Report Cards.

## Prevalent Health Problems

### *Asthma*

The [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#) created a dashboard to track the asthma burden among the Medicaid population across the state. According to this dashboard in 2021, the prevalence of persistent asthma in children under the age of 4 in Michigan was 1.9 percent, compared with St. Clair County, which was slightly higher at 2.4 percent. For children, aged 5-17, in Michigan, it was 3.4 percent, and again, the rate was slightly higher in St. Clair County at 4 percent.<sup>xcviii</sup>

### *Oral Health*

“Cavities (also known as caries or tooth decay) are one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood in the United States. Untreated cavities can cause pain and infections that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing, and learning. Children who have poor oral health often miss more school and receive lower grades than children who do not.”<sup>xcix</sup>

The National Survey of Children’s Health from the [Data Resource Center for Child & Adolescent Health](#) provides national and state data on a variety of health-related subjects pertinent to children and families. According to the 2020-21 survey, in the United States 76.8 percent of parents or guardians indicated the condition of their children’s teeth was “excellent or very good,” 17.3 percent rated the condition as “good,” and 5.9 percent rated the condition as “fair or poor” (Table 59). Michigan had lower percentages on “excellent or very good” and “fair or poor” but a higher percentage of “good” ratings.

The survey also released respondents’ data on children’s oral health (toothaches, bleeding gums, decayed teeth, or cavities); 14.5 and 15.6 percent of the respondents in the United States and Michigan, correspondingly, indicated their children had one or more oral health problems.

| <b>National Survey of Children's Health (2020-21)</b>                                                                                                    |                      |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Source: Data Resource Center for Child &amp; Adolescent Health</i>                                                                                    |                      |                 |
| <b>How would you describe the condition of this child's teeth, age 1-17 years?</b>                                                                       | <b>United States</b> | <b>Michigan</b> |
| Excellent or Very Good                                                                                                                                   | 76.8%                | 74.4%           |
| Good                                                                                                                                                     | 17.3%                | 20.7%           |
| Fair or Poor                                                                                                                                             | 5.9%                 | 4.9%            |
| <b>During the past 12 months, has this child had oral health problems such as toothaches, bleeding gums, decayed teeth, or cavities, age 1-17 years?</b> | <b>United States</b> | <b>Michigan</b> |
| One or More Oral Health Problems                                                                                                                         | 14.5%                | 15.6%           |
| No Oral Health Problems                                                                                                                                  | 85.5%                | 84.4%           |

**Table 59: National Survey on Children’s Health (2020-21)**

### *Obesity*

According to [The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America 2023](#) Michigan has the 23<sup>rd</sup> highest adult obesity rate in the nation, 34.5 percent.<sup>c</sup> Highest rates of obesity were seen for those ages 45-64 (39.5 percent) and among Black residents (42.1 percent). The report also includes data from 2020 among WIC participants, ages 2-4, which indicated that 13.8 percent of participants were identified as obese.

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### *Health and Wellness*

#### Diabetes and Hypertension

According to [The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America 2023](#), the most common obesity-related diseases reported are diabetes and hypertension. In Michigan in 2022, 11.5 percent of the adult population had diabetes and 35.6 percent had hypertension, ranking Michigan 26<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, respectively, in the nation.<sup>ci</sup>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Health and Wellness

#### Leading Causes of Death

According to data gathered from [CDC Wonder](#) in 2021, the top three leading causes of death in the United States, Michigan, St. Clair County were diseases of the heart, malignant neoplasms (cancer), and COVID-19. In the United States and Michigan, COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death. In St. Clair County COVID-19 was the second leading cause of death, preceded by malignant neoplasms (cancer).

Table 60 illustrates the top five leading causes of death (sorted by state rank) as well as the death rates per 100,000 residents.

| Leading Causes of Death Rates per 100,000 Residents (2021) |                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Source: CDC Wonder                                         |                                    |                  |
|                                                            | Top 5 Leading Causes of Death      | Rate per 100,000 |
| United States                                              | Diseases of heart                  | 209.6            |
|                                                            | Malignant neoplasms                | 182.4            |
|                                                            | COVID-19                           | 125.6            |
|                                                            | Accidents (unintentional injuries) | 67.8             |
|                                                            | Cerebrovascular diseases           | 49.1             |
| Michigan                                                   | Diseases of heart                  | 265.3            |
|                                                            | Malignant neoplasms                | 211.0            |
|                                                            | COVID-19                           | 135.7            |
|                                                            | Accidents (unintentional injuries) | 65.1             |
|                                                            | Cerebrovascular diseases           | 57.5             |
| St. Clair County                                           | Diseases of heart                  | 336.8            |
|                                                            | COVID-19                           | 256.8            |
|                                                            | Malignant neoplasms                | 256.2            |
|                                                            | Chronic lower respiratory diseases | 77.5             |
|                                                            | Accidents (unintentional injuries) | 63.1             |

Table 60: Leading Causes of Death (2021)

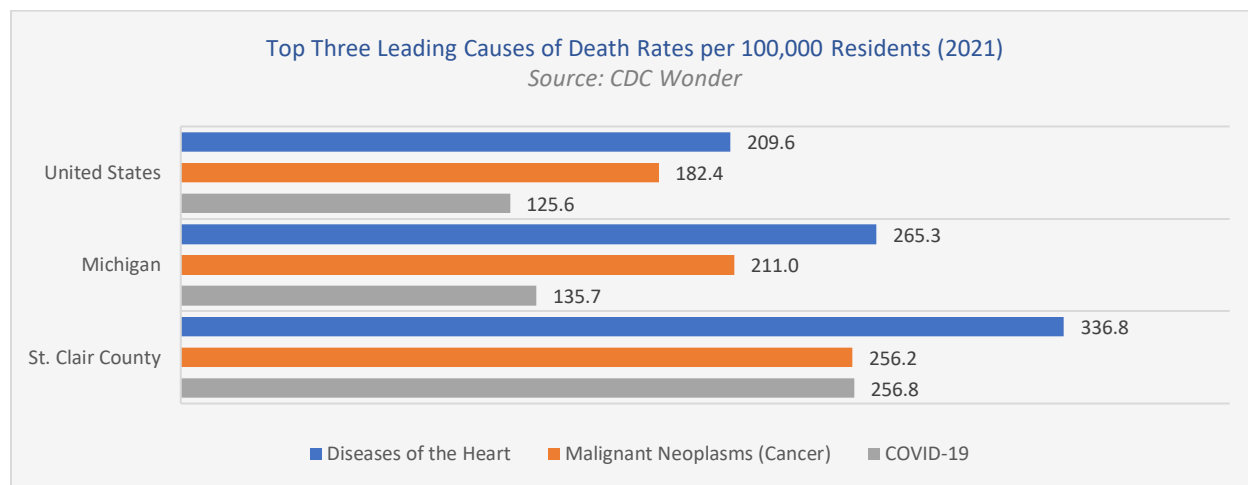
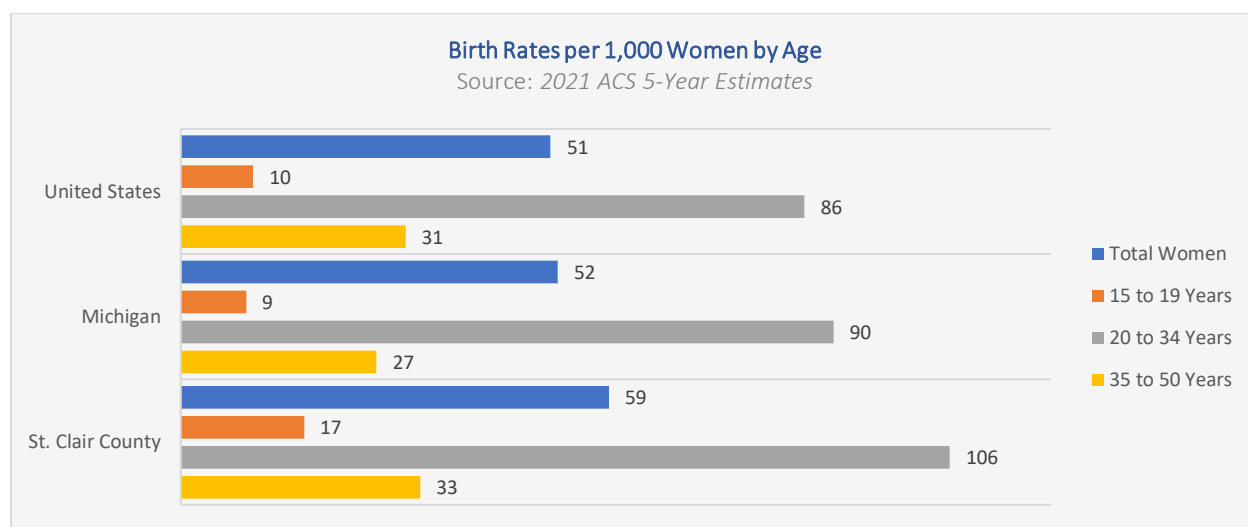


Figure 36: Leading Causes of Death (2021)

## Maternal and Infant Health

### Fertility/Birth Rates

According to U.S. census data, there was a birth rate of 51 per 1,000 women in the United States for women between the ages of 15 to 50 years in the past 12 months (Figure 37). In Michigan and St. Clair County, 52 and 59 women per 1,000 women, ages 15 to 50, respectively, gave birth in the past 12 months.



**Figure 37: Birth Rates per 1,000 Women (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)**

NOTE: Census estimates report on the number of women who gave birth in the past 12 months; the 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates reports on the average of five years from 2016 to 2020.

### Teen Pregnancy

According to the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#), Michigan's fertility rate for girls, ages 15-19, in 2021 was 12.2 per 1,000. In St. Clair County the rate was lower at 11.3 per 1,000 (Table 61).<sup>cii</sup>

#### Teen Births and Fertility Rates, 15–19-Year-Olds (2021)

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

|                  | Count | Rate (Per 1,000 Female Population) |
|------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| Michigan         | 3,870 | 12.2                               |
| St. Clair County | 53    | 11.3                               |

**Table 61: Teen Births and Fertility Rates, 15–19-Year-Olds (2021)**

### Prenatal Care

Based on data retrieved from the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#), in Michigan 24.7 percent of women who gave birth in 2021 had not received prenatal care (PNC) in the first trimester. In St. Clair County the percent was lower for those women who did not receive prenatal care in the first trimester at 20.7 percent (Table 62).<sup>ciii</sup>



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Health and Wellness

##### Prenatal Care (2021)

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

|                  | Total   | PNC First Trimester | No PNC First Trimester |
|------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Michigan         | 105,022 | 77,848              | 25,897                 |
|                  | N/A     | 74.1%               | 24.7%                  |
| St. Clair County | 1,436   | 1,121               | 297                    |
|                  | N/A     | 78.1%               | 20.7%                  |

Table 62: Prenatal Health Care (2021)

**Adequate:** Care that began within the first trimester and included an average of at least one or two additional prenatal visits per month of gestation, depending on the length of gestation.

**Intermediate:** Care that began during the second trimester of pregnancy with correspondingly fewer visits or began during the first trimester but with fewer visits than would be appropriate for the length of gestation.

**Inadequate:** When no care was received or if care began during the third trimester. It is also inadequate if care began during the first or second trimester, but less than five visits occurred, when the length of gestation was 34 weeks or more. When the length of gestation was less than 34 weeks, care is defined as inadequate when care began during the first or second trimester but a number of visits less than four occurred, that number depending on the actual weeks of gestation.

National Library of Medicine, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/8092364/>

#### Low Birthweight Babies

When examining data obtained through the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#) pertaining to low birthweight babies, the Kessner Index was used to calculate the number and percentage of babies. “The Kessner Index is a classification of prenatal care based on the month of pregnancy in which prenatal care began, the number of prenatal visits and the length of pregnancy (i.e. for shorter pregnancies, fewer prenatal visits constitute adequate care).”<sup>civ</sup>

Of the 105,022 live births in 2021 in Michigan, more than 9,000 infants were born with a low birthweight (live births weighing less than 2,500 grams), 9.2 percent of total births, and 1.5 percent of total births were babies with very low birthweight (live births weighing less than 1,500 grams). In St. Clair County the percentage of infants who were born with low birthweight was 7.8 percent and 0.8 percent with very low birth weight. The asterisk in the figure indicates a zero (Figure 38).<sup>cv</sup>

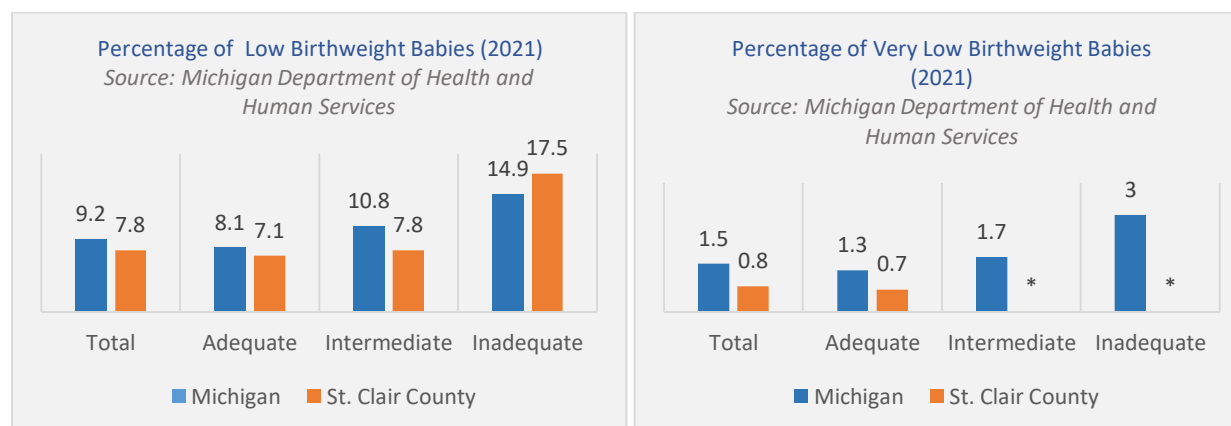


Figure 38: Babies with Low and Very Low Birthweight Using the Kessner Index (2021)

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Health and Wellness

##### Infant Mortality

Data obtained from the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#) reports that in 2021 in Michigan there were 656 infant deaths (a rate of 6.2 infants per 1,000 live births), of which 433 were neonatal and 223 were post-neonatal infant deaths. In St. Clair County there were 7 infant deaths, of which 2 were neonatal and 5 were post-neonatal infant deaths.<sup>cvi</sup>

##### Infant Mortality (2021)

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

|                  | Infant |       | Neonatal |              | Post-neonatal |              |
|------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|                  | Count  | Rate* | Count    | Rate*        | Count         | Rate*        |
| Michigan         | 656    | 6.2   | 433      | Not Reported | 223           | Not Reported |
| St. Clair County | 7      | 4.9   | 2        | Not Reported | 5             | Not Reported |

\*Rate per 1,000 live births

Table 63: Infant Mortality (2021)

**Fetal death:** spontaneous intrauterine death of a fetus at any time during pregnancy.

**Perinatal death:** death of an infant between 20 weeks gestation through 27 days after birth.

**Neonatal death:** death of an infant less than 28 days old.

**Postneonatal death:** death of a newborn between 28 days and 1 year of age expressed per 1,000 live births.

**Infant death:** death of an infant under age 1.

Centers for Disease Control, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/births.htm>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Nutrition

#### Nutrition

The **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)** is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture established in 1969. FNS “works to end hunger and obesity through the administration of 15 federal nutrition assistance programs including WIC, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and school meals.” The program’s mission is to “increase food security and reduce hunger by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet and nutrition education in a way that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence. No American should have to go hungry.”

USDA Food and Nutrition Service, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/about-fns>

“SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move toward self-sufficiency.”

USDA Food and Nutrition Service, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>

“The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk.”

USDA Food and Nutrition Service, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic>

“The **National School Lunch Program (NSLP)** is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946.”

USDA Food and Nutrition Service, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp>

#### Public Assistance Programs

##### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The [Michigan Department of Health & Human Services](#) (MDHHS) provides temporary food assistance for eligible low-income families and individuals through the Food Assistance Program (FAP), as issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. According to the MDHHS, during the month of July 2023 there were more than 740,000 FAP cases with more than 1.3 million recipients (Table 64).<sup>cvii</sup> Of the total FAP recipients in Michigan, more than 833,000 were adults and 551,400 were children. In St. Clair County there were 11,755 FAP cases with a total of 21,599 recipients, of which 13,514 were adults and 8,085 were children.

##### Food Assistance Program (FAP) (July 2023)

Source: Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

|                  | Cases   | Recipients |         |          |
|------------------|---------|------------|---------|----------|
|                  |         | Total      | Adult   | Children |
| Michigan         | 741,917 | 1,385,182  | 833,782 | 551,400  |
| St. Clair County | 11,755  | 21,599     | 13,514  | 8,085    |

Table 64: Food Assistance Program (2023)

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States government instituted a “temporary boost to SNAP benefits” in March 2020 to increase benefits for SNAP recipients. However, with the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 law passed by Congress, these “emergency allotments” ended in February 2023, with the USDA announcing that “all SNAP households’ benefits will return to normal amounts” in March 2023. With over 41 million U.S. residents receiving “food-buying benefits through SNAP,” the USDA is attempting to notify all those who will be affected, as, according to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), the “average person will receive about \$90 a month less in SNAP benefits.” The USDA directs those in need of additional support to contact their [Hunger Hotline](#), which “connects callers with emergency food providers in their community, government assistance programs, and various social services.”

USDA Food and Nutrition Service, *Changes to SNAP Benefit Amounts - 2023*. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/changes-2023-benefit-amounts#:~:text=SNAP%20emergency%20allotments%20were%20a,after%20the%20February%202023%20issuance>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Nutrition

##### *Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)*

The special supplemental nutrition program for [Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#) is a federal program providing support to low-income pregnant, nursing, and non-nursing postpartum women and children, ages 0 to 5. The program is designed to provide supplemental foods, nutrition education, and referrals for health care services. According to the data provided, in 2022 more than 6.26 million women and children participated in WIC programs nationwide, up 0.3 percent from 2021. In Michigan 200,223 women and children participated in the WIC program in 2022, down 3.4 percent compared to 2021. <sup>cviii</sup>

#### WIC State Participation Percent Change (2021-22)

Source: USDA

|               | 2021      | 2022      | % Change |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| United States | 6,243,959 | 6,260,143 | 0.3%     |
| Michigan      | 207,317   | 200,223   | -3.4%    |

Table 65: WIC State Participation (2021-22)

[Michigan KIDS COUNT](#) provides county-level data on children, ages birth to 4, receiving WIC. Based on this data, during the 2022 fiscal year, 266,806 infants and children under age 5 received WIC in Michigan, of which 3,689 were in St. Clair County. <sup>cix</sup>

##### *National School Lunch Program*

According to data retrieved from MI School Data more than 680,000 students were eligible for free lunch, 49.2 percent, and more than 56,000 students, 4.1 percent, were eligible for reduced-price lunch. <sup>cx</sup> Of the public-school students in St. Clair County, between 34.8 and 59 percent were eligible for free lunch, and between 2.6 and 5.8 percent were eligible for reduced-price lunch.

#### Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility (Fall 2022)

Source: MI School Data

|                                   | Free Lunch Eligible |       | Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible |      |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------|------------------------------|------|
| Michigan                          | 680,822             | 49.2% | 56,456                       | 4.1% |
| St. Clair County RESA             | 111                 | 59.0% | 6                            | 3.2% |
| Port Huron Area School District   | 4,224               | 58.6% | 291                          | 4.0% |
| Algonac Community School District | 642                 | 47.6% | 53                           | 3.9% |
| Capac Community Schools           | 390                 | 53.1% | 41                           | 5.6% |
| East China School District        | 1,278               | 35.0% | 96                           | 2.6% |
| Marysville Public Schools         | 918                 | 34.8% | 93                           | 3.5% |
| Memphis Community Schools         | 257                 | 35.0% | 39                           | 5.3% |
| Yale Public Schools               | 735                 | 42.2% | 101                          | 5.8% |

Table 66: National School Lunch Program (Fall 2022)

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Nutrition

#### Food Insecurity

Food deprivation and its measure are often referred to as *Food Insecurity*.

Food insecurity happens when a healthy lifestyle for all members of a household is not sustainable due to inconsistent food access. Whether short- or long-term, food insecurity indicates when people cannot purchase food due to monetary restrictions.

In 2021 in the United States, more than 33 million residents lived in a household in which they did not always know where they would find their next meal. An estimated 9.3 million children under the age of 18 in the United States lived in homes that were unable to consistently access enough and nutritious foods, a rate of 12.8 percent.<sup>cx1</sup>

In Michigan 11.7 percent of the total population lived without access to enough and nutritious foods. The food insecurity rate for children was even higher, 13.1 percent, which accounted for 282,320 children (Figure 40).

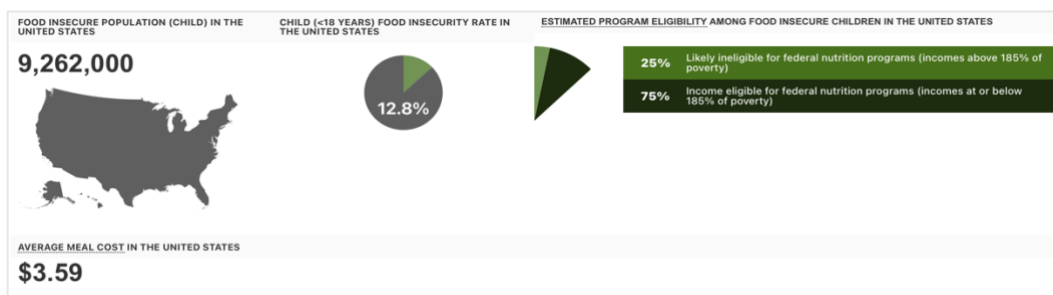


Figure 39: Child Food Insecurity in United States (2021)

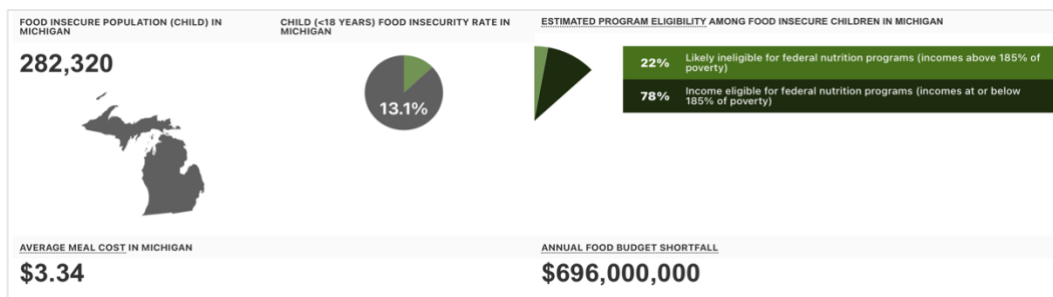


Figure 40: Child Food Insecurity in Michigan (2021)

The overall food insecurity rate in St. Clair County was 12 percent. The overall child food insecurity rate was 11.8 percent, representing 3,950 children who experienced food insecurity in St. Clair County (Table 67).<sup>cxii</sup>

| Food Insecurity (2021)  |                                  |                            |                                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Source: Feeding America |                                  |                            |                                            |
|                         | Food Insecurity Rate (Full Pop.) | Child Food Insecurity Rate | Estimated Number of Food Insecure Children |
| Michigan                | 11.7%                            | 13.1%                      | 282,320                                    |
| St. Clair County        | 12.0%                            | 11.8%                      | 3,950                                      |

Table 67: Food Insecurity (2021)

[CLICK HERE to find your local food bank.](#)

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Nutrition

##### Food Access

The Economic Research Service, a division of the USDA, has developed a Food Access Research Atlas that measures food store access for individuals and neighborhoods. The USDA uses a variety of measures to determine food store access, as well as to define low-income and low-access neighborhoods. As per the USDA, “most measures and definitions consider at least some of the following indicators of access:

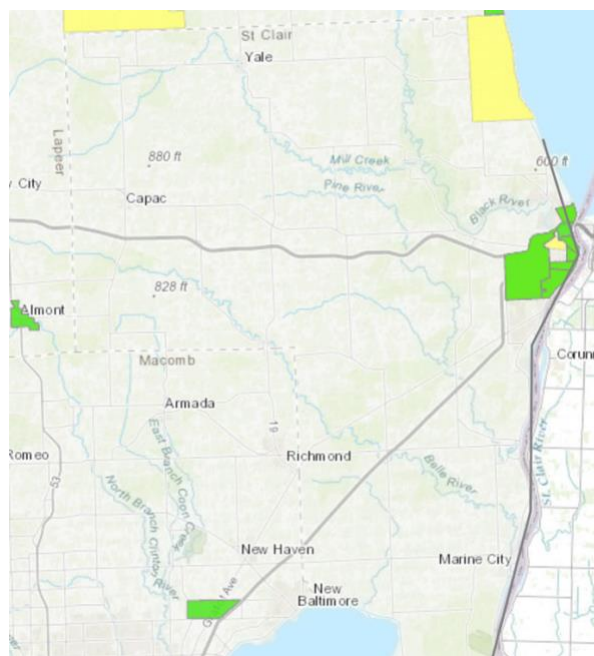
- Accessibility to sources of healthy food, as measured by distance to a store or by the number of stores in an area;
- Individual-level resources that may affect accessibility, such as family income or vehicle availability; and
- Neighborhood-level indicators of resources, such as the average income of the neighborhood and the availability of public transportation.”<sup>cxiii</sup>

Low-income neighborhoods and census tracts are defined as areas where the poverty rate is 20 percent or higher and where the family median income is less than or equal to 80 percent of the state’s median family income or the metropolitan area’s median family income (if the tract is in a metropolitan area).<sup>cxiv</sup>

Low-access neighborhoods and census tracts are defined as areas where at least 500 people (or more than 33 percent of the population) in an urban area live more than half a mile or one mile away from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store and more than 10 or 20 miles in a rural area.<sup>cxv</sup>

The image below illustrates the census tracts in the program’s service area that have limited food access using two measures: low-income and low-access using one and 10 miles, and low-income and low-access using vehicle access and 20 miles. (See comprehensive definitions in the green box.)

#### [FOOD ACCESS RESEARCH ATLAS](#) (Click on title for interactive map.)



**Green Shading:** “Low-income and low-access tract measured at 1 mile and 10 miles.

**Definition:** A low-income tract with at least 500 people, or 33 percent of the population, living more than one mile (urban areas) or more than 10 miles (rural areas) from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store.”

**Yellow Shading:** “Low-income and low-access tract using vehicle access and at 20 miles.

**Definition:** A low-income tract where at least one of the following is true: at least 100 households are located more than one-half mile from the nearest supermarket and have no vehicle access; or at least 500 people, or 33 percent of the population, live more than 20 miles from the nearest supermarket, regardless of vehicle availability.”

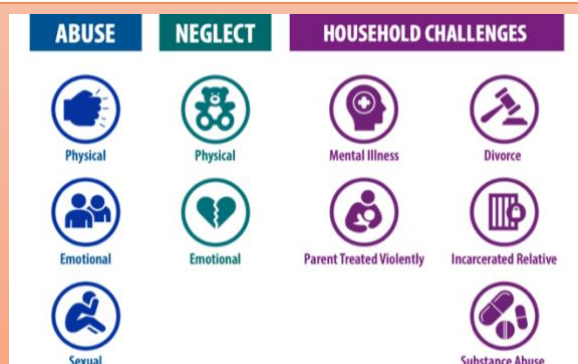
USDA Economic Research Service, <https://www.ers.usda.gov>



## Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

“Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, are preventable, potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years) such as neglect, experiencing or witnessing violence, and having a family member attempt or die by suicide. Also included are aspects of a child’s environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding, such as growing up in a household with substance use; mental health problems; or instability due to parental separation or incarceration of a parent, sibling or other member of the household.” (Figure taken from the FY2021-24 Adverse Childhood Experience Prevention Strategy, developed by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.)

Centers for Disease Control, <https://www.cdc.gov/>



## Prevalence of Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse

### Drug- and Alcohol-Induced Deaths

Based on data collected from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s [CDC Wonder](#), a system for disseminating public health data and information, in 2021 there were more than 111,000 drug-induced deaths and more than 54,000 alcohol-induced deaths in the United States, with corresponding rates of 33.5 and 16.3 per 100,000 residents (Table 68). Michigan reported 3,151 drug-induced deaths (a rate of 31.4 per 100,000 residents) of which 65 were in St. Clair County. Statewide, there were 1,745 alcohol-induced deaths (a rate of 17.4 per 100,000 residents), of which 27 were in St. Clair County.<sup>cxvi</sup>

**Drug- and Alcohol-Induced Deaths (Number and Rates per 100,000 Residents) (2021)**

Source: CDC Wonder

|                         | Total Drug-Induced Deaths |      | Total Alcohol-Induced Deaths |      |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
|                         | Number                    | Rate | Number                       | Rate |
| <b>United States</b>    | 111,219                   | 33.5 | 54,258                       | 16.3 |
| <b>Michigan</b>         | 3,151                     | 31.4 | 1,745                        | 17.4 |
| <b>St. Clair County</b> | 65                        | 40.6 | 27                           | 16.9 |

**Table 68: Drug- and Alcohol-Induced Deaths (2021)**

### Opioid Prescriptions

According to data gathered from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), per 100 persons, 54.4 and 56.3 retail opioid prescriptions were dispensed in 2020 in Michigan and St. Clair County, respectively.

#### Opioid Prescriptions Key Highlights

- “The overall national opioid dispensing rate declined from 2012 to 2020, and in 2020, the dispensing rate had fallen to the lowest in 15 years, for which we have data at 43.3 prescriptions per 100 persons (total of more than 142 million opioid prescriptions).
- However, in 2020, dispensing rates continued to remain very high in certain areas across the country.
- In 3.6 percent of U.S. counties, enough opioid prescriptions were dispensed for every person to have one.
- While the overall opioid dispensing rate in 2020 was 43.3 prescriptions per 100 people, some counties had rates that were nine times higher than that.”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <https://www.cdc.gov/>



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

#### Child Maltreatment and Foster Care

##### Abuse and Neglect

According to the KIDS COUNT Data Center, there were more than 191,000 reported and investigated child abuse cases for children ages 0-17 in Michigan in 2022, a rate of 89.1 per 1,000 children (Table 69). Of the cases reported statewide, 3,367 cases were reported in St. Clair County, a rate of 102.5 cases per 1,000.<sup>cxvii</sup>

##### Children Ages 0-17 Years in Investigated Families (2022)

Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center

|                  | Number  | Rate per 1,000 |
|------------------|---------|----------------|
| Michigan         | 191,781 | 89.1           |
| St. Clair County | 3,367   | 102.5          |

Table 69: Children Ages 0-17 Years in Investigated Families (2022)

Of the more than 191,000 reported child abuse cases in Michigan, more than 25,000 cases were confirmed abuse and/or neglect, a rate of 11.7 per 1,000 children (Table 70). In St. Clair County there were 476 confirmed cases of abuse and/or neglect, a rate of 14.5 per 1,000 children.

##### Confirmed Victims Ages 0-17 of Abuse and/or Neglect (2022)

Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center

|                  | Number | Rate per 1,000 |
|------------------|--------|----------------|
| Michigan         | 25,138 | 11.7           |
| St. Clair County | 476    | 14.5           |

Table 70: Confirmed Victims of Abuse and/or Neglect (2022)

##### Foster Care

According to the KIDS COUNT Data Center, there were more than 8,000, ages 0-17, in state custody due to abuse or neglect in Michigan in 2022, a rate of 4 children per 1,000 children. Of the number of children in custody in statewide, 160 children were in St. Clair County, a rate of 4.9 per 1,000.<sup>cxviii</sup>

##### Children Ages Birth to 17 in Out-of-Home Care – Abuse or Neglect (2022)

Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center

|                  | Number | Rate per 1,000 |
|------------------|--------|----------------|
| Michigan         | 8,614  | 4.0            |
| St. Clair County | 160    | 4.9            |

Table 71: Children Ages Birth to 17 in Out-of-Home Care (2022)



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the community(ies) served?

#### Potential Need and Cost of Child Care

##### Children Potentially Needing Child Care

Based on census data, in Michigan nearly 441,000 children under the age of 6 live in single- or dual-parent households, where one or both parent(s) are in the labor force, indicating that this group potentially needs child care, representing 66.9 percent of all children under age 6 (Table 72). Of those 441,000 children, 6,366 children are in St. Clair County (73.8 percent of children under age 6).

| Children Under Age 6, Parent(s) in Labor Force |                        |                    |                        |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates              |                        |                    |                        |
|                                                | Number of Householders | Number of Children | Percentage of Children |
| United States                                  | 22,399,131             | 14,992,885         | 66.9%                  |
| Michigan                                       | 658,663                | 440,890            | 66.9%                  |
| St. Clair County                               | 8,621                  | 6,366              | 73.8%                  |

Table 72: Children Under Age 6, Parent(s) in Labor Force (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

##### Cost of Child Care

Based on [Child Care Aware® of America](#), the annual cost of infant child care, in a center-based program, is \$8,778 (compared with public college tuition, which is \$14,339). The cost of care for an infant and a 4-year-old is \$24,773 per year. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that child care should cost no more than 7 percent of a household's income.<sup>cxix</sup> Single parents and married couples earning Michigan's median income pay 48 and 14 percent of their income, respectively, for center-based infant child care.<sup>cxx</sup>

"CCAoA's [Child Care Affordability Analysis](#) found that in 2021:

- The national average price of child care was around \$10,600 annually. This would comprise 10 percent of a married-couple family's average annual income and 35 percent of a single parent's income.
- The increase in child care prices slightly outpaced inflation, which was much higher than the inflation rate in prior years.
- In most states, the price of child care for two children exceeded annual housing payments by 28 percent to over 100 percent.
- Similarly, the price of child care for an infant in a center exceeded annual in-state tuition at a public university in 34 states.
- Child care for two children in a center would cost a child care workforce professional anywhere from 56 percent to over 100 percent of annual income.
- Child care was more expensive than most other household expenses such as housing and health care in all U.S. regions."

Child Care Aware, <https://www.childcareaware.org/catalyzing-growth-using-data-to-change-child-care/#ChildCareAffordability>

## MODULE 4: WHAT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SERVE THESE COMMUNITY(IES)?

### Federal- and/or State-Funded Preschool Programs

Based on the 2022 State of Preschool report issued by the [National Institution for Early Education Research \(NIEER\)](#), in the United States approximately 32 percent of 4-year-olds and 6.4 percent of 3-year-olds were served in state-funded preschool programs in 2021-22.

From the [Executive Summary](#):

“Despite two decades of progress in state-funded pre-K, most children still cannot enroll in a publicly funded early childhood education program, and fewer than one in five can access a public program at age 3. No doubt that is partly because states incorporated private providers into public programs rather than expanding capacity by adding new programs. However, it likely also reflects reductions in the number of 3- and 4-year-olds served by Head Start. Finally, quality matters too, and states have not increased their funding per child to support higher quality.”<sup>cxxi</sup>

Nationwide there are 62 pre-K programs in 44 states and Washington, D.C.; enrollment in state-funded pre-K programs rebounded by more than 180,000 compared with 2020-21, but total enrollment has still not recovered from pre-pandemic levels. During the 2021-22 school year, approximately 1.53 million children were served in pre-K programs, up from 1.36 million the year before. Of the 1.53 million children served, 1.26 million were 4-year-olds and 245,195 were 3-year-olds. Total state pre-K spending during the 2021-22 school year was more than \$11.56 billion, with an average state spending of \$7,656 per child.

As of 2021-22, only six states offer universal pre-school: Florida, Iowa, Oklahoma, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C. Four additional states have universal preschool policies but have yet to fully implement them: Georgia, Illinois, Maine, and New York.

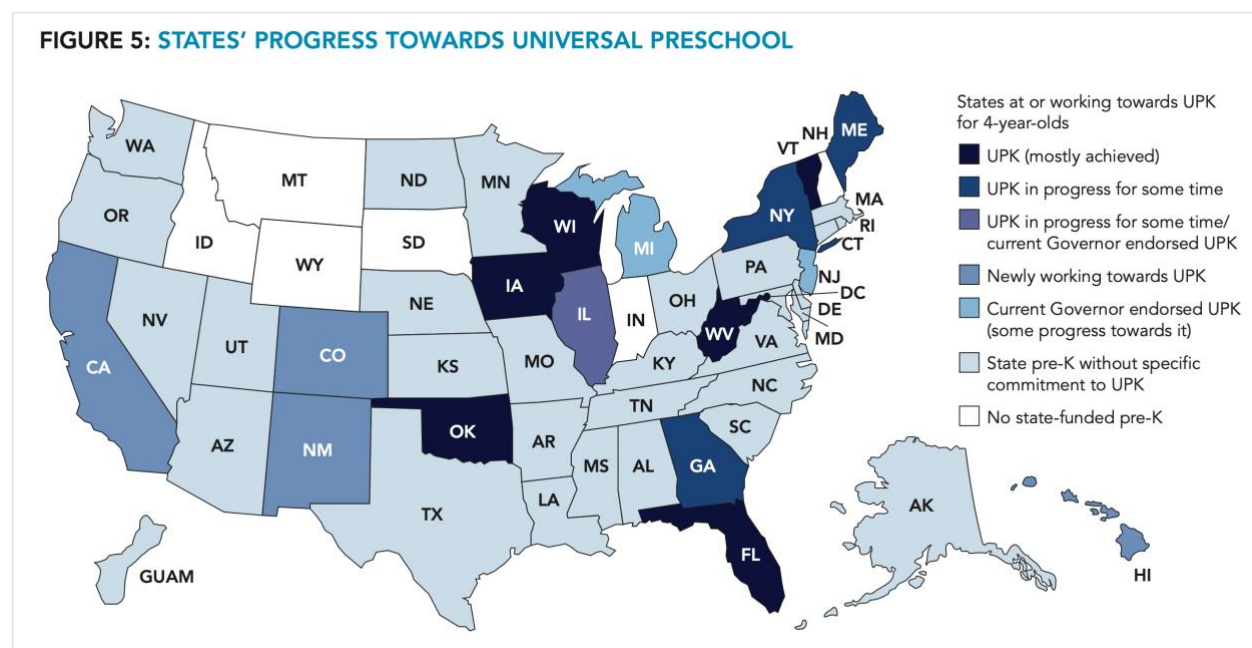


Figure 41: State Progress Towards Universal Preschool (2021-22)

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?

#### Federal- and/or State-Funded Preschool Programs

#### Michigan Overview

Michigan ranks 19<sup>th</sup> for access and enrollment of 4-year-olds and does not serve any 3-year-olds in public preschool. During the 2021-22 school year, programs enrolled 31 percent of all 4-year-old children. The state ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in state spending, with per-child spending of \$11,927 and has met **10 of the current 10 quality standards benchmarks**. During the 2021-22 program year, 35,895 children were enrolled in pre-K programs, 10,374 in special education programs, and 22,895 in federally funded Head Start programs. Total state funding for the Michigan Great Start School Readiness Preschool Program was \$428,120,000.

Click for full size: [Michigan State Profile](#).



#### Great Start Readiness Program

"The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is Michigan's state-funded preschool Program for 4-year-old children with factors which may place them at risk of educational failure. The program is administered by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start. Funding is allocated to each intermediate school district to administer the program locally."

Michigan Department of Education, <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/early-learners-and-care/gsrp>

Based on data collected from the Michigan Department of Education's [MI School Data](#), during the 2021-22 school year a total of 30,938 children were served by the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) in Michigan, of which 472 were served in St. Clair County.<sup>cxix</sup> Additionally, 5,754 children were served in GSRP/Head Start blended classrooms in Michigan, of which 55 were served in St. Clair County.

## Child Care Financial Assistance

### *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act*

“The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG) is a law that authorizes the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program, which is administered by states, territories, and tribes. States use CCDF to provide financial assistance to low-income families to access child care so they can work or attend job training or educational programs. States can also use CCDF dollars to invest in improving quality through teacher workforce, supporting child care programs to achieve higher standards, and providing consumer education to help parents select child care that meets their families’ needs. In short, CCDBG Act is the law and CCDF is the program.”<sup>cxxiii</sup>

The Center for American Progress reports that due to insufficient funding, only one in nine eligible children under the age of 6 received benefits from the CCDF program in 2021.<sup>cxxiv</sup> New Mexico reported the highest participation rate, with 27.3 percent of subsidy-eligible children receiving benefits from the program, while Virginia reported the lowest participation rate at 5.7 percent. In Michigan only 9.7 percent of eligible children received benefits from the CCDF program.<sup>cxxv</sup>

### *Child Development and Care (CDC)*

The Michigan [Department of Health and Human Services](#) reports that during the month of July 2023, there were more than 72,000 children eligible to receive the state’s Child Development and Care subsidy funds, yet only 37,412 received payments (Table 73).<sup>cxxvi</sup> In St. Clair County, 888 children were eligible for subsidy; however, less than half received support, a total of 400.

| <b>Child Development and Care (CDC) (July 2023)</b>             |                 |                 |              |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services</i> |                 |                 |              |                 |
|                                                                 | <b>Eligible</b> |                 | <b>Paid</b>  |                 |
|                                                                 | <b>Cases</b>    | <b>Children</b> | <b>Cases</b> | <b>Children</b> |
| <b>Michigan</b>                                                 | 39,431          | 72,379          | 21,672       | 37,412          |
| <b>St. Clair County</b>                                         | 472             | 888             | 247          | 400             |

**Table 73: Child Development and Care (July 2023)**

## Michigan Licensed Child Care Programs

This data is from the 2021 State Factsheet, which reflects 2020 calendar year data.

### State Fact Sheet: MICHIGAN



| CHILD CARE SUPPLY INFORMATION*                                      |                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Number of Licensed Centers                                          | 3,694                                                                        |
| Total Capacity (Slots) of Licensed Centers                          | 273,152                                                                      |
| Number of Nationally Accredited Centers                             | 118                                                                          |
| Total Capacity (Slots) of Accredited Centers                        | NR                                                                           |
| Number of Licensed Family Child Care (FCC) Programs                 | 3,749                                                                        |
| Total Capacity (Slots) of Licensed FCC Programs                     | 31,886                                                                       |
| Number of Nationally Accredited FCC Programs                        | 7                                                                            |
| Total Capacity (Slots) of Accredited FCC Programs                   | NR                                                                           |
| Number of School Age Only Programs                                  | 794                                                                          |
| Total Capacity (Slots) of School Age Only Programs                  | 61,094                                                                       |
| Total Capacity (Slots) for Infants                                  | NR                                                                           |
| Total Capacity (Slots) for Toddlers                                 | NR                                                                           |
| Total Capacity (Slots) for Preschoolers (4 year old)                | NR                                                                           |
| Total Capacity (Slots) for School-Age Children                      | NR                                                                           |
| QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (QRIS) INFORMATION            |                                                                              |
| Name of QRIS                                                        | Great Start to Quality                                                       |
| Number of Centers Participating in QRIS                             | 2,059                                                                        |
| Total Capacity (Slots) of Centers Participating in QRIS             | 156,871                                                                      |
| Number of Centers at Highest QRIS Level                             | 2,003                                                                        |
| Total Capacity (Slots) of Centers at Highest QRIS Level             | 152,849                                                                      |
| Number of FCCs Participating in QRIS                                | 1,399                                                                        |
| Total Capacity (Slots) of FCCs Participating in QRIS                | 12,332                                                                       |
| Number of FCCs at Highest QRIS Level                                | 1,107                                                                        |
| Total Capacity (Slots) of FCCs at Highest QRIS Level                | 9,847                                                                        |
| Number of School-Age Programs Participating in QRIS                 | 35                                                                           |
| Total Capacity (Slots) of School Age Programs Participating in QRIS | 2,456                                                                        |
| Number of School-Age Programs at Highest QRIS Level                 | 27                                                                           |
| Total Capacity (Slots) of School-Age Programs at Highest QRIS Level | 1,864                                                                        |
| CHILD CARE REFERRALS                                                |                                                                              |
| Total Number of Child Care Referral Requests                        | 123,581                                                                      |
| FOR MORE INFORMATION                                                |                                                                              |
| Great Start to Quality                                              | <a href="http://www.greatstarttoquality.org">www.greatstarttoquality.org</a> |

\*Information obtained from CCAoA Annual Survey of CCR&Rs and state child care agencies conducted in January 2021. The above information reflects data as of December 2020.

NR = Not Reported

NA = Not Applicable



**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?**  
*Michigan Licensed Child Care Programs*

*Child Care Programs*

[Great Start to Quality](#), funded by the Department of Education, provides a resource and search tool for parents to locate child care programs in their community. Based on a search conducted on November 1, 2023, there are a total of 77 child care programs in St. Clair County with a capacity to serve 3,229 children under the age of 18. Thirty-five of these programs accept Child Development and Care subsidies, 40 offer preschool services, and 11 offer Great Start Readiness Program Services. Table 74 provides a comprehensive list of each of the child care programs in the county. This list includes licensed centers, licensed family homes, and licensed group homes.

| <b>Child Care Centers in St. Clair County</b> |                  |                        |              |       |          |          |             |           |                               |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Source: Great Start to Quality</i>         |                  |                        |              |       |          |          |             |           |                               |
| Business Name                                 | License Type     | Address                | City         | State | Zip Code | Capacity | CDC Subsidy | Preschool | Great Start Readiness Program |
| ABC/Algonac Childcare Program                 | Licensed Centers | 9541 Phelps Rd         | Algonac      | MI    | 48001    | 192      | TRUE        | Yes       | Yes                           |
| Aristotle Learning Child Care Center Inc.     | Licensed Centers | 3013 24th Street       | Port Huron   | MI    | 48060    | 29       | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Avoca Children's Center                       | Licensed Centers | 8751 Willow Street     | Avoca        | MI    | 48006    | 35       | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Belle River Elementary                        | Licensed Centers | 1601 Chartier          | Marine City  | MI    | 48039    | 36       | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| Bright Beginnings Child Care                  | Licensed Centers | 3520 Pollina Ave.      | Fort Gratiot | MI    | 48059    | 100      | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| BWCA Early Childhood Center                   | Licensed Centers | 3403 Lapeer Road       | Port Huron   | MI    | 48060    | 290      | FALSE       | Yes       | Yes                           |
| Cleveland Elementary School                   | Licensed Centers | 2801 Vaness Street     | Port Huron   | MI    | 48060    | 18       | FALSE       | Yes       | Yes                           |
| Country Meadows Montessori                    | Licensed Centers | 8622 Dixie Highway     | Fair Haven   | MI    | 48023    | 66       | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Creative Tots                                 | Licensed Centers | 547 N Carney           | St. Clair    | MI    | 48079    | 20       | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| East China GSRP/4-Year-Old Preschool          | Licensed Centers | 1585 Meisner           | East China   | MI    | 48054    | 151      | TRUE        | Yes       | Yes                           |
| Eddy Elementary                               | Licensed Centers | 301 N 9th St, Suite 11 | St. Clair    | MI    | 48079    | 109      | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Farrell-Emmett Children's Center              | Licensed Centers | 3300 Kinney            | Emmett       | MI    | 48022    | 53       | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| First Baptist Preschool                       | Licensed Centers | 1814 Sanborn Street    | Port Huron   | MI    | 48060    | 60       | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| Gardens Elementary School                     | Licensed Centers | 1076 Sixth St          | Marysville   | MI    | 48040    | 50       | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Gearing Elementary Latchkey                   | Licensed Centers | 200 North Carney Drive | St. Clair    | MI    | 48079    | 50       | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| Heritage - TMC Child Care Center              | Licensed Centers | 406 North Street       | Yale         | MI    | 48097    | 26       | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Holy Cross Catholic School                    | Licensed Centers | 618 South Water Street | Marine City  | MI    | 48039    | 19       | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| Immaculate Conception School                  | Licensed Centers | 7043 Church Road       | Fair Haven   | MI    | 48023    | 46       | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Immanuel Lutheran Preschool                   | Licensed Centers | 415 North Ninth Street | St. Clair    | MI    | 48079    | 99       | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Jitter Bugs Preschool Daycare                 | Licensed Centers | 14958 E Park Street    | Capac        | MI    | 48014    | 28       | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Jodi's Just 4 Kids Child Care                 | Licensed Centers | 1174 Gratiot Blvd.     | Marysville   | MI    | 48040    | 49       | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| Kiddie Campus Early Childhood Center          | Licensed Centers | 675 Gratiot Blvd STE 3 | Marysville   | MI    | 48040    | 38       | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| Kids N Kare Capac                             | Licensed Centers | 351 W. Kempf Court     | Capac        | MI    | 48014    | 144      | TRUE        | Yes       | Yes                           |
| Learning Adventures Preschool and Childcare   | Licensed Centers | 901 Michigan Ave Ste A | Marysville   | MI    | 48040    | 58       | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Marysville Public Schools Great Start Program | Licensed Centers | 920 Lynwood            | Marysville   | MI    | 48040    | 63       | FALSE       | Yes       | Yes                           |

**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?**  
*Michigan Licensed Child Care Programs*

**Child Care Centers in St. Clair County**

*Source: Great Start to Quality*

| Business Name                             | License Type          | Address                  | City           | State | Zip Code | Capacity | CDC Subsidy | Preschool | Great Start Readiness Program |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Memphis Preschool and Day Care            | Licensed Centers      | 34165 Bordman            | Memphis        | MI    | 48041    | 101      | TRUE        | Yes       | Yes                           |
| Michigamme Elementary School              | Licensed Centers      | 2855 Michigan Road       | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 18       | FALSE       | Yes       | Yes                           |
| Millside Latchkey                         | Licensed Centers      | 1904 Mill St             | Algonac        | MI    | 48001    | 40       | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| MPS Begindergarten - Gardens              | Licensed Centers      | 1076 6th Street          | Marysville     | MI    | 48040    | 12       | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| MPS Begindergarten- Washington            | Licensed Centers      | 905 16th Street          | Marysville     | MI    | 48040    | 12       | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| New Life Christian Academy                | Licensed Centers      | 5517 Griswold Rd         | Kimball        | MI    | 48074    | 20       | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| Not Just Play                             | Licensed Centers      | 201 N Riverside, A-3     | St. Clair      | MI    | 48079    | 40       | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| Nu-Nu's Nursery and Daycare               | Licensed Centers      | 1714 Holland Ave         | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 79       | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Palms Elementary School                   | Licensed Centers      | 6101 Palms Road          | Fair Haven     | MI    | 48023    | 70       | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| Pine River Latchkey                       | Licensed Centers      | 3575 King Road           | China Township | MI    | 48054    | 36       | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| Port Huron Schools Early Childhood Center | Licensed Centers      | 2400 Garfield Street     | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 282      | FALSE       | Yes       | Yes                           |
| Rosebrook Child Development Center        | Licensed Centers      | 4819 Lapeer              | Kimball        | MI    | 48074    | 111      | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Ross Preschool                            | Licensed Centers      | 2865 Maywood Dr          | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 35       | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| St Edward Preschl/Guardian Angel          | Licensed Centers      | 6995 Lakeshore Rd        | Lakeport       | MI    | 48059    | 40       | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| St Mary/McCormick Academy Day Care        | Licensed Centers      | 1429 Ballentine Street   | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 22       | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| St. Mary/McCormick Academy 1              | Licensed Centers      | 1429 Ballentine Street   | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 20       | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| STEAM Academy at Woodrow Wilson           | Licensed Centers      | 834 Chestnut             | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 36       | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Warm World Early Child Care Center 2      | Licensed Centers      | 1525 3rd Street          | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 97       | TRUE        | Yes       | Yes                           |
| Yale Children's Center                    | Licensed Centers      | 200 School Drive         | Yale           | MI    | 48097    | 50       | TRUE        | Yes       | Yes                           |
| Claire's Kiddie Care                      | Licensed Family Homes | 716 Richman Rd.          | Smiths Creek   | MI    | 48074    | 7        | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Courtney Sheedy                           | Licensed Family Homes | 1601 N Delano St         | St. Clair      | MI    | 48079    | 7        | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Family Home Daycare                       | Licensed Family Homes | 9532 Anchor Dr.          | Clay           | MI    | 48001    | 7        | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| Gay Simpson                               | Licensed Family Homes | 1424 Richardson Street   | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 7        | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| God's Greatest Gift Daycare               | Licensed Family Homes | 4142 Tristen Ave         | Fort Gratiot   | MI    | 48059    | 6        | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| Joanne VanBusKirk                         | Licensed Family Homes | 4915 Lakeshore           | Fort Gratiot   | MI    | 48059    | 7        | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| Jonysha's Daycare                         | Licensed Family Homes | 4710 Griswold Rd         | Kimball        | MI    | 48074    | 6        | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Julie Renee Phillips-Ware                 | Licensed Family Homes | 1744 McPherson Street    | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 6        | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Kim Helena Schmidt                        | Licensed Family Homes | 2229 Berville Rd         | Allenton       | MI    | 48002    | 7        | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Laurie Evans                              | Licensed Family Homes | 1511 Beard Street        | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 6        | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| Lil' Sunbeams Childcare                   | Licensed Family Homes | 723 N 6th St             | St. Clair      | MI    | 48079    | 6        | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Little Sprouts Childcare                  | Licensed Family Homes | 2636 Eckles Rd.          | Goodells       | MI    | 48027    | 6        | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Marilyn Ravasdy & Todd Bendler            | Licensed Family Homes | 2132 S/B Military Street | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 4        | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Mrs. B's Childcare                        | Licensed Family Homes | 5750 Ravenswood Rd       | Kimball        | MI    | 48074    | 6        | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Phyllis Harvey                            | Licensed Family Homes | 1080 18th Street         | Marysville     | MI    | 48040    | 6        | FALSE       | Yes       | No                            |
| Roberts, Jerri                            | Licensed Family Homes | 1128 Wall Street         | Port Huron     | MI    | 48060    | 7        | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |

**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?**  
*Michigan Licensed Child Care Programs*

**Child Care Centers in St. Clair County**

*Source: Great Start to Quality*

| Business Name               | License Type          | Address               | City                | State | Zip Code | Capacity | CDC Subsidy | Preschool | Great Start Readiness Program |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Sandra Jacques              | Licensed Family Homes | 1191 Quain Lane       | Port Huron          | MI    | 48060    | 7        | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| Shelley Thomas              | Licensed Family Homes | 912 Ohio Street       | Marysville          | MI    | 48040    | 6        | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Sunnyside Childcare         | Licensed Family Homes | 10206 Beckett Rd      | Greenwood           | MI    | 48006    | 5        | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Tiny Blessings Daycare      | Licensed Family Homes | 8673 Marquette        | Wales               | MI    | 48027    | 6        | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Andra Burke                 | Licensed Group Homes  | 3368 North River Road | Fort Gratiot        | MI    | 48059    | 14       | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Blue River Home Child Care  | Licensed Group Homes  | 315 N 5th Street      | St. Clair           | MI    | 48079    | 12       | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Charlotte Howell            | Licensed Group Homes  | 566 Colorado Ave.     | Marysville          | MI    | 48040    | 12       | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| Deborah Pung                | Licensed Group Homes  | 4680 Atkins Rd        | Clyde Township      | MI    | 48049    | 12       | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| Elizabeth A. Ceto           | Licensed Group Homes  | 5440 Church Road      | Casco               | MI    | 48064    | 12       | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Gayle Ann Sovereign         | Licensed Group Homes  | 4096 Keewahdin Road   | Fort Gratiot        | MI    | 48059    | 12       | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| Home Away from Home Daycare | Licensed Group Homes  | 275 4th Street        | Marysville          | MI    | 48040    | 14       | FALSE       | No        | No                            |
| Kayla Harris and Donald III | Licensed Group Homes  | 3240 North River Road | Fort Gratiot        | MI    | 48059    | 12       | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Lashbrook Jennifer          | Licensed Group Homes  | 76 Rella Rae          | Marysville          | MI    | 48040    | 14       | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Linda Clark                 | Licensed Group Homes  | 653 Range Road        | Marysville          | MI    | 48040    | 14       | TRUE        | Yes       | No                            |
| Pool Sharon and Michael     | Licensed Group Homes  | 2502 Yeager Street    | Port Huron Township | MI    | 48060    | 12       | TRUE        | No        | No                            |
| Tina Moak                   | Licensed Group Homes  | 991 Sturdevant        | Smiths Creek        | MI    | 48074    | 14       | TRUE        | No        | No                            |

**Table 74: Child Care Centers in St. Clair County**



**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?**  
*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

**Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships**

*CSBG External Partners and Services*

**Employment Initiatives**

| Program Name                                                 | Address                                                                             | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Services Provided                                                                                                              | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Michigan Works                                               | 100 McMorran Blvd 6th Fl<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                                    | 810-966-3300<br><a href="https://msc-mw.org/">https://msc-mw.org/</a>                                                                                                                                                       | Job postings, referrals to HARA, apprenticeship opportunities                                                                  | Yes, Informal                           |
| St. Clair County Child Abuse and Neglect                     | 1107 Military Street<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                                        | 810-966-9911                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Employment, job trainings                                                                                                      | Yes, Informal                           |
| Community Foundation of St. Clair County - Talent Attraction | 500 Water St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                                               | 810-984-4761<br><a href="https://www.stclairfoundation.org/talent-attraction/">https://www.stclairfoundation.org/talent-attraction/</a>                                                                                     | Come Home (Reverse Scholarship) Program to pay toward student loans of college graduates who move home to work in STEAM fields | No                                      |
| St. Clair Community College Apprenticeships                  | 323 Erie St,<br>Port Huron, MI 48061                                                | 810-989-5736<br><a href="mailto:apprenticeship@sc4.edu">apprenticeship@sc4.edu</a><br><a href="https://sc4.edu/support-services/employment/apprenticeship/">https://sc4.edu/support-services/employment/apprenticeship/</a> | Apprenticeship opportunities                                                                                                   | Yes, Informal                           |
| St. Clair Community College SC4 Work-Study Program           | 323 Erie St,<br>Port Huron, MI 48061                                                | <a href="https://sc4.edu/support-services/employment/work-study/">https://sc4.edu/support-services/employment/work-study/</a>                                                                                               | Work study program for enrolled students to be employed on or off campus by community organizations                            | Yes, Informal                           |
| Goodwill Industries of St. Clair County                      | 1013 26th Street, Port Huron, MI 48060                                              | <a href="https://www.goodwill.org/">https://www.goodwill.org/</a>                                                                                                                                                           | Resume, skill, and career coaching                                                                                             | Yes, Informal                           |
| Michigan Rehabilitation Services                             | Port Huron Main MRS Office 100 McMorran Boulevard 5th Floor<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810-982-8571<br>877-620-7929 (toll free)<br><a href="http://www.michigan.gov/mrs">www.michigan.gov/mrs</a>                                                                                                                  | Develops customized workforce solutions for businesses and individuals with disabilities                                       | No                                      |

**Availability of ABE/GED Programs**

| Program Name                    | Address                                                          | Phone Number / Website                                                                 | Services Provided                                                      | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| St. Clair Community College     | 323 Erie St,<br>Port Huron, MI 48061                             | <a href="https://sc4.edu/">https://sc4.edu/</a>                                        | Referrals, GED                                                         | Yes, Informal                           |
| Capac Community School District | LCISD Ed Tech Center<br>690 N. Lake Pleasant<br>Attica, MI 48446 | 810-667-6454<br><a href="http://www.capac.k12.mi.us">www.capac.k12.mi.us</a>           | Adult Basic Education, High school completion, GED, workplace literacy | Yes, Informal                           |
| Port Huron Area School District | Harrison Center<br>55 15th Street<br>Port Huron, MI 48060        | 810-445-0029<br><a href="http://www.port-huron.k12.mi.us">www.port-huron.k12.mi.us</a> | Adult Basic Education, GED, high school completion                     | Yes, Informal                           |

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?

*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

| Program Name                             | Address                                                          | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                  | Services Provided                                                                                                                        | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Harrison Adult Learning Center           | 55 15th Street<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                           | 810-455-0029<br><a href="https://web.bluewaterchamber.com/Schools/Harrison-Adult-Learning-Center-3998">https://web.bluewaterchamber.com/Schools/Harrison-Adult-Learning-Center-3998</a> | GED testing, job preparation                                                                                                             | No                                      |
| Saint Clair County Literacy Project      | Various locations;<br>210 McMorran Blvd.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810-987-7323 x157                                                                                                                                                                       | GED preparation classes                                                                                                                  | No                                      |
| Literacy and Beyond 2Gen Learning Center | 3110 Goulden Street<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                      | 810-824.3932 ext. 3                                                                                                                                                                     | Referrals to HARA, GED instruction to women and mothers of children 0-3 years old. Free childcare, counseling services, and free testing | Yes, Informal                           |

### Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities

| Program Name                                             | Address                                                       | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Services Provided                                                    | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| St. Clair Community College                              | 323 Erie St,<br>Port Huron, MI 48061                          | <a href="https://sc4.edu/">https://sc4.edu/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Referrals, GED, college courses                                      | Yes, Informal                           |
| Baker College of Port Huron                              | 2000 St Clair St<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                      | 855-487-7888<br><a href="https://www.baker.edu/academics/affiliate-d-institutions/culinary-institute-of-michigan/facilities/port-huron-campus/">https://www.baker.edu/academics/affiliate-d-institutions/culinary-institute-of-michigan/facilities/port-huron-campus/</a> | Culinary arts training                                               | No                                      |
| Lakewood School of Therapeutic Massage                   | 1102 6th Street<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                       | 810-987 3959<br>810-956-7334<br><a href="mailto:emailus@lakewoodschool.edu">emailus@lakewoodschool.edu</a><br><a href="https://lakewoodschool.edu/">https://lakewoodschool.edu/</a>                                                                                       | Therapeutic massage training                                         | No                                      |
| Paul Mitchell The School-Great Lakes                     | 2950 Lapeer Road<br>Port Huron, MI, 48060                     | 810-987-8118<br><a href="https://paulmitchell.edu/porthuron">https://paulmitchell.edu/porthuron</a>                                                                                                                                                                       | Cosmetology school                                                   | No                                      |
| Ross Medical Education Center-Port Huron                 | 2887 Krafft Road<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                      | 810-982-0454<br><a href="https://rosseducation.edu/campus/mi/port-huron.php">https://rosseducation.edu/campus/mi/port-huron.php</a>                                                                                                                                       | Medical career training programs                                     | No                                      |
| Walsh College of Accountancy and Business Administration | SC4 University Center<br>323 Erie St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48061 | 586-723-1500<br><a href="https://walshcollege.edu/about-us/locations-and-hours/">https://walshcollege.edu/about-us/locations-and-hours/</a>                                                                                                                               | Offering core classes within the Bachelor of Business Administration | No                                      |

**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?**  
*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

**Availability of Before- and After-School Care Programs**

| Program Name                                                             | Address                                                  | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                              | Services Provided                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No)  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Great Start Readiness Program (Regional Education Service Agency)</b> | 499 Range Road<br>PO Box 1500<br>Marysville, MI 48040    | 810-455-4009<br><a href="https://www.sccresa.org/services-a-z/early-childhood-services/free-preschool-gsrp">https://www.sccresa.org/services-a-z/early-childhood-services/free-preschool-gsrp</a>   | Michigan's state-funded preschool program for 4-year-olds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes, Informal                            |
| <b>St. Clair County Regional Educational Services - RESA</b>             | 499 Range Rd,<br>PO Box 1500,<br>Marysville, MI 48040    | 810-364-8990<br><a href="https://www.sccresa.org/programs">https://www.sccresa.org/programs</a>                                                                                                     | Various activities for children of all ages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Yes, MOU                                 |
| <b>4-H – St. Clair County MSU Extension</b>                              |                                                          | 810-989-6935<br><a href="https://legacy.stclaircounty.org/Offices/msue/4H/Default.aspx">https://legacy.stclaircounty.org/Offices/msue/4H/Default.aspx</a>                                           | After- and in-school programs for children of various ages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | No                                       |
| <b>Algonac Community School – Point Tremble Early Childcare Center</b>   | 9541 Phelps Road<br>Clay Township, MI                    | 810-794-3022 ext. 1621<br><a href="https://www.acsk12.us/schools/pointe_tremble/index.php">https://www.acsk12.us/schools/pointe_tremble/index.php</a>                                               | Child care services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No                                       |
| <b>Capac Elementary School</b>                                           | 351 W. Kempf Court,<br>P.O. Box 610,<br>Capac, MI. 48014 | 810-395-3636<br><a href="https://www.capacschools.us/page/capac-elementary-school-prek-6th">https://www.capacschools.us/page/capac-elementary-school-prek-6th</a>                                   | Before and after school programs – Latchkey programming and preschool                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Yes, Informal with Capac School District |
| <b>YMCA of the Blue Water Area</b>                                       | 1525 3rd St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                     | 810- 987-6400 Ext. 119<br><a href="https://www.bluewaterymca.com/programs/childcare/out-of-school-time">https://www.bluewaterymca.com/programs/childcare/out-of-school-time</a>                     | Out-of-School Time programs at local schools, Warm World child development program is for infants to pre-school-aged children, Day camps<br><br>Out-of-School Time offerings: Gardens Elementary, Morton Elementary, Washington Elementary, Landmark Academy, Cleveland, Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Crull, Garfield, Edison, Keewahdin, Michigamme, Indian Woods | Yes, Informal                            |
| <b>Kids Connection</b>                                                   | 301 N 6th St,<br>St Clair, MI 48079                      | 245-3533 ext. 256.<br><a href="https://www.stclair.new.schoolstoday.com/page/2581">https://www.stclair.new.schoolstoday.com/page/2581</a>                                                           | School-age child care option, Monday through Friday, from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No                                       |
| <b>Horizons After School Program</b>                                     | 2720 Riverside Drive,<br>Port Huron, MI 4806             | 810-455-0038<br><a href="https://phs.ss7.sharpschool.com/district/departments/horizons_after_school_program">https://phs.ss7.sharpschool.com/district/departments/horizons_after_school_program</a> | After school program                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | No                                       |
| <b>Nu-Nu's Nursery, Inc.</b>                                             | 1714 Holland Avenue<br>Port Huron, MI 48060              | 810-984-4300<br><a href="https://www.nunusnursery.com">https://www.nunusnursery.com</a>                                                                                                             | Daycare/preschool center open daily from 5:30 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. (midnight), Monday through Friday, 12 months a year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | No                                       |
| <b>Wee Love Day Care and Learning Center</b>                             | 31700 Couchez<br>St. Clair Shores, MI 48082              | 586-296-7102<br><a href="http://www.weelovedaycare.com">http://www.weelovedaycare.com</a>                                                                                                           | Daycare for ages 2 weeks to 12-years-old with hours slightly beyond school hours: Monday – Friday 7:00am - 5:00pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | No                                       |

**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?**  
*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

**Tuition Assistance**

| Program Name                                                    | Address                                                | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Services Provided                                                                                                                                                    | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Michigan Reconnect - St. Clair County Community College         | 323 Erie St.,<br>P.O. Box 5015<br>Port Huron, MI 48061 | 810-989-5530<br><a href="mailto:financialaid@sc4.edu">financialaid@sc4.edu</a><br><br><a href="https://sc4.edu/admissions/financial-aid/reconnect/#:~:text=Michigan%20Reconnect%20is%20a%20last,to%20attend%20SC4%20tuition%2Dfree.">https://sc4.edu/admissions/financial-aid/reconnect/#:~:text=Michigan%20Reconnect%20is%20a%20last,to%20attend%20SC4%20tuition%2Dfree.</a> | Last-dollar scholarship program that pays for qualifying students to attend SC4 tuition-free                                                                         | No                                      |
| Tri-Share Child Care Assistance Program – St. Clair County RESA | N/A                                                    | Kylie Griner at 810-455-4087<br><a href="https://www.sccresa.org/services-a-z/early-childhood-services/programs-and-services">https://www.sccresa.org/services-a-z/early-childhood-services/programs-and-services</a>                                                                                                                                                         | An innovative program designed to improve access to affordable, quality child care by sharing the cost between the employee, the employer, and the state of Michigan | No                                      |
| St. Clair County Technical Education Center                     | 499 Range Road<br>Marysville, MI 48040                 | 810-455-1010<br><a href="https://www.sctec.org/student-services/college-financial-aid">https://www.sctec.org/student-services/college-financial-aid</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | College financial aid resources                                                                                                                                      | No                                      |
| St. Clair County Community College                              | 323 Erie St.,<br>P.O. Box 5015<br>Port Huron, MI 48061 | <a href="https://sc4.edu/news/free-and-reduced-tuition-opportunities-at-sc4/">https://sc4.edu/news/free-and-reduced-tuition-opportunities-at-sc4/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Tuition assistance programs                                                                                                                                          | Yes, Informal                           |

**Emergency Food Assistance**

| Program Name                             | Address                                        | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                                              | Services Provided                                                                                                                               | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Operation Transformation                 | 1904 Poplar Street, Port Huron, MI 48060       | 810-966-8660<br><a href="mailto:cseppo@optrans.org">cseppo@optrans.org</a><br><a href="https://www.optrans.org">optrans.org</a><br><a href="https://www.optrans.org">https://www.optrans.org</a> , fooddistribution | Mobile food distribution                                                                                                                        | Yes, Informal                           |
| The Salvation Army                       | 2000 Court St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060         | 810-984-2679<br><a href="https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/porthuron/">https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/porthuron/</a>                                                                                       | Periodic food distribution * Call ahead in November & December                                                                                  | Yes, Informal                           |
| Downriver Bread of Life Nutrition Center | 156 South William St.<br>Marine City, MI 48039 | 810-335-4180                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Food pantry for Marine City residents; 1st & 2nd Monday of each month, 1 time a month                                                           | No                                      |
| The C3 Connection                        | 114 N. Main St.<br>Capac, MI 48014             | 810-292-4256                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Food pantry for primarily Capac; open to St. Clair County Residents, Mondays: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., 1 time a month                                   | No                                      |
| Harbor Impact Ministries                 | 1963 Allen Rd.<br>Kimball, MI 48074            | 810-662-5312<br><a href="http://www.harborimpactministries.com/">http://www.harborimpactministries.com/</a>                                                                                                         | Food pantry for St. Clair County residents, Mon. - Fri.: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.                                                                       | Yes, Informal                           |
| Faith Lutheran Food Pantry               | 3455 Stone St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060         | 810-985-5733                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Food pantry for all St. Clair County residents; first Saturday of Each Month: 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. * If arriving at 8 a.m., breakfast is offered. | No                                      |

**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?**  
*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

| Program Name                                | Address                                       | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Services Provided                                                                                                                                                                                        | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Yale Community Food Fund, Inc.</b>       |                                               | 810-294-1942                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Individuals & families in the Yale Public School District; call ahead, 5 times per year                                                                                                                  | No                                      |
| <b>Trinity United Methodist Food Pantry</b> | 424 Smith St.<br>Algonac, MI 48001            | 810-794-4379                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Food pantry for Ira, Clay, Algonac residents<br>Fridays: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 1 time a month                                                                                                                | No                                      |
| <b>Blue Water Community Food Depot</b>      | 2408 10th St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060         | 810-987-7886                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Food pantry for all St. Clair County residents<br>Mon. Wed. Fri.: 10 a.m. - 1:45 p.m., 4 times a year<br>* Must receive food voucher, prior to arrival; photo ID is required to match address on voucher | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>SOS Marysville Food Pantry</b>           | 2929 Gratiot Blvd.<br>Marysville, MI 48040    | 810-364-6333                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Food pantry<br>Tues.: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.<br>Wed.: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.<br>Thurs.: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.                                                                                                            | No                                      |
| <b>Mid City Nutrition</b>                   | 805 Chestnut Street<br>Port Huron, MI 48060   | 810-982-9261<br><a href="https://midcitynutritionsoupkitchen.com/">https://midcitynutritionsoupkitchen.com/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                | Soup kitchen Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Sun. - Fri. 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.                                                                                                                                  | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>Council on Aging</b>                     | 600 Grand River Ave.,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | Call (800) 297-0099 to reserve your seat or for additional information.<br><br>Council on Aging Home Delivered Meals Program: Call (810) 987-8811 or (800) 297-0099<br><br><a href="http://www.thecouncilonaging.org/senior-nutrition/">http://www.thecouncilonaging.org/senior-nutrition/</a> | Soup kitchen. Reservations are required.<br><br>Council on Aging offers eight meal sites located throughout St. Clair County (\$2 donation is encouraged).<br>Age 60 and Greater Population              | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>Port Huron, MI WIC Program</b>           | 3415 28th Street<br>Port Huron, MI 48060      | 810-987 8222                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Provides food for moms, babies, and children less than age 5 receive nutritious foods from the Michigan WIC Program                                                                                      | Yes, Informal                           |

**Emergency Vendor Payments (Fuel/Energy)**

| Program Name                                                    | Address                                      | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                          | Services Provided                                                                    | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>THAW – The Heat and Warmth Fund</b>                          | 535 Griswold St Ste 200<br>Detroit, MI 48226 | 800-866-THAW (8429)<br><a href="https://thawfund.org/assistance-2/">https://thawfund.org/assistance-2/</a>                                                                                      | Emergency energy and utility help                                                    | No                                      |
| <b>Energy and Weatherization – MI Health and Human Services</b> | N/A                                          | <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/emergency-relief/energyweatherization">https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/emergency-relief/energyweatherization</a> | Energy and weatherization program                                                    | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>Heat and Utilities – MI Health and Human Services</b>        | N/A                                          | <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/emergency-relief/heatutilities">https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/emergency-relief/heatutilities</a>               | Temporary heat and utility assistance to eligible low-income individuals or families | Yes, Informal                           |

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?

*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

| Program Name                                                                                 | Address                                       | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Services Provided                                                                                | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) – MI Health and Human Services</b> | N/A                                           | <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/low-income-households-water-assistance-program-lihwap">https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/low-income-households-water-assistance-program-lihwap</a> | Temporary emergency program to help low-income households pay overdue water and wastewater bills | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>Michigan Energy Assistance Program</b>                                                    | N/A                                           | <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/consumer/energy-assistance">https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/consumer/energy-assistance</a>                                                                                                 | Provides energy assistance and self-sufficiency services to eligible low-income households       | No                                      |
| <b>St Clair County Department of Human Services</b>                                          | 220 Fort Street,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060,     | 810-966-2000<br><a href="http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs">http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs</a>                                                                                                                                       | Possible rent and utilities assistance                                                           | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>United Way St. Clair County</b>                                                           | 1723 Military Street,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810-985-8169<br><a href="http://www.uwstclair.org/">http://www.uwstclair.org/</a>                                                                                                                                               | Possible rent and utilities assistance                                                           | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>Salvation Army (Local)</b>                                                                | 2000 Court St.,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060       | 810-984-2679<br><a href="https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/porthuron/">https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/porthuron/</a>                                                                                                   | Monetary assistance for housing/utilities and referrals                                          | Yes, Informal                           |

### Temporary Shelter

| Program Name                               | Address                                                       | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                                | Services Provided                                                                                                      | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>The Harbor</b>                          | 929 Pine Street<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                       | 810-985-8584<br>Kids Line: 810-987-3418<br><a href="https://harboryouth.com/">https://harboryouth.com/</a>                                                                                            | Shelter for runaway and homeless youth aged 10 - 17                                                                    | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>Wings of the Harbor</b>                 | 1114 Court Street<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                     | 810-989-9602<br><a href="https://harboryouth.com/">https://harboryouth.com/</a>                                                                                                                       | Transitional living program for youth aged 16 - 21                                                                     | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>Carolyn's Place</b>                     | Administration Address:<br>1840 Grant<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | Administration Phone:<br>810-989-5246<br>Crisis line: 810-985-5538<br><a href="https://bluewatersafehorizons.org/">https://bluewatersafehorizons.org/</a>                                             | Shelter services for women survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or homeless and their dependent children | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>Pathway Homeless Shelter</b>            | 511 Union Street<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                      | 810-982-1020<br><a href="https://drmm.org/about-us/locations/">https://drmm.org/about-us/locations/</a>                                                                                               | Homeless shelter for women and children                                                                                | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>Bluewater Rescue Mission</b>            | 1920 24th Street<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                      | 810-956-0768<br><a href="http://www.b-warm.org/">http://www.b-warm.org/</a>                                                                                                                           | Adult (18 yrs. or older) male shelter                                                                                  | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>Hunter Hospitality House</b>            | 3 locations in<br>Port Huron, MI                              | 810-824-3679<br><a href="mailto:hunterhospitalityhouse@gmail.com">hunterhospitalityhouse@gmail.com</a><br><a href="https://www.hunterhospitalityhouse.com">https://www.hunterhospitalityhouse.com</a> | Temporary housing for those comforting a sick loved one or receiving treatment themselves                              | Yes, Informal                           |
| <b>Salvation Army Great Lakes Division</b> | 16130 Northland Dr.,<br>Southfield, MI 48075                  | 248-443-5500x244<br><a href="https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/greatlakes/">https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/greatlakes/</a>                                                                   | Emergency shelter program funds                                                                                        | Yes, MOU                                |

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?

*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

| Program Name                          | Address                                  | Phone Number / Website                                                                    | Services Provided                                | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Surya Hospitality (Quality Inn Hotel) | 1700 Yeager St.,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810-982-5500                                                                              | Emergency hotel shelter for homeless             | Yes, MOU                                |
| YMCA of the Blue Water Area           | 1525 3rd St.,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060    | 810-987-6400<br><a href="https://www.bluewaterymca.com">https://www.bluewaterymca.com</a> | Showers for homeless, funds for homeless shelter | Yes, Informal                           |

### Transitional Housing

| Program Name                                        | Address                                                                     | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Services Provided                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Blue Water Habitat for Humanity                     | 3524 Pine Grove Ave.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                                | 810-985-9080<br><a href="http://www.bwhabitat.org/Home/Index">http://www.bwhabitat.org/Home/Index</a>                                                                                                                                                    | "Blue Water Habitat for Humanity builds, rehabilitates or repairs homes long side the families that will purchase the home or already own the home."                                                                                                                          | Yes/Informal                            |
| City of Port Huron Urban Pioneer Program            | Municipal Office Center,<br>100 McMorran Boulevard,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810.984.9736, ext. 1181<br><a href="https://www.porthuron.org/departments/planning_community_development/community_development_division.php">https://www.porthuron.org/departments/planning_community_development/community_development_division.php</a> | "The function of this division is to insure funds received by the City from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are used for programs and services which benefit low to moderate-income residents." | Yes/Informal                            |
| Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries - Pathway Shelter | 150 Stimson St.<br>Detroit, MI 48201                                        | 313-993-4700<br><a href="https://drmm.org">https://drmm.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                          | Emergency homeless shelter, recovery, and permanent housing                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes/Informal                            |
| Disability Network Eastern Michigan (DNEM)          | 4351 24th Ave, Ste. 1 Ft.<br>Gratiot, MI 48059                              | 810-987-9337<br><a href="https://www.dnemichigan.org">https://www.dnemichigan.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                    | Housing assistance for veteran homeless                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes/Informal                            |
| Harbor/Wings Youth Shelter                          | 929 Pine St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                                        | 810-984-8584<br><a href="https://harboryouth.com/programs/wings-of-the-harbor/">https://harboryouth.com/programs/wings-of-the-harbor/</a>                                                                                                                | Transitional housing for homeless youth ages 18-21                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Yes/Informal                            |
| Innovative Housing                                  | 3051 Commerce Dr<br>Fort Gratiot, MI 48059                                  | 810-385-4463<br><a href="https://www.innovativehousing.org">https://www.innovativehousing.org</a>                                                                                                                                                        | Supportive housing for individuals with special needs                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Yes/Informal                            |
| Blue Water Developmental Housing                    | 1362 River Rd,<br>St. Clair, MI 48079                                       | 810-388-1200<br><a href="https://www.bwdh.org">https://www.bwdh.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                  | Housing help and support services for people with special needs, senior shelter                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes/Informal                            |
| Michigan State Housing Development Authority        | 3028 W. Grand Blvd,<br>Ste 4-600,<br>Detroit, MI 48202                      | 517-335-0605<br><a href="https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/appointments/oma/all/3/michigan-state-housing-development-authority">https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/appointments/oma/all/3/michigan-state-housing-development-authority</a>                  | HARA funds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Yes/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)   |
| Port Huron Area Landlord Association (PHALA)        | PO Box 596304, Ft.<br>Gratiot, MI 48059                                     | 810-650-1908<br><a href="https://www.phalarentals.com">https://www.phalarentals.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                  | Housing help                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Yes/Informal                            |
| Port Huron Housing Commission & Foundation          | 705 7th St<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                                          | 810-984-3173<br><a href="https://www.phhousing.org">https://www.phhousing.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                        | Low Income Housing, Housing Assistance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes/Informal                            |

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?

*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

| Program Name                             | Address                                     | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                               | Services Provided                                | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Port Huron Odyssey House & Port of Hopes | 718 Griswold St. Port Huron, MI 48060       | 810-937-5336 & 810-982-3560<br><a href="https://www.odysseyvillage.com/?page_id=482">https://www.odysseyvillage.com/?page_id=482</a> | Referrals to HARA                                | Yes/Informal                            |
| Salvation Army Great Lakes Division      | 16130 Northland Dr. Southfield, MI 48075    | 248-443-5500x244<br><a href="https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/greatlakes/">https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/greatlakes/</a>  | Emergency Shelter Program funds                  | Yes/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)   |
| Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home            | 2732 Cherry St. Port Huron, MI 48060        | 810-985-5631<br><a href="https://www.sanborngriatort.org">https://www.sanborngriatort.org</a>                                        | Senior Shelter                                   | Yes/Informal                            |
| Surya Hospitality (Quality Inn Hotel)    | 1700 Yeager St. Port Huron, MI 48060        | 810-982-5500                                                                                                                         | Emergency Hotel Shelter for homeless             | Yes/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)   |
| YMCA of the Blue Water Area              | 1525 3rd St. Port Huron, MI 48060           | 810-987-6400<br><a href="https://www.bluewaterymca.com">https://www.bluewaterymca.com</a>                                            | Showers for homeless, funds for homeless shelter | Yes/Informal                            |
| Pathway Homeless Shelter                 | 511 Union Street Port Huron, MI 48060       | 810 982-1020                                                                                                                         | Homeless Shelter for Women and Children          | No                                      |
| Blue Water Rescue Mission                | 1920 24 <sup>th</sup> Street Port Huron, MI | 810-956-0768                                                                                                                         | Homeless Shelter for Men                         | No                                      |

### Emergency Medical Care

| Program Name                   | Address                                   | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                        | Services Provided                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Community First Health Centers | 1011 Military St., Port Huron, MI 48060   | 810-488-8000<br><a href="https://www.communityfirsthc.org">https://www.communityfirsthc.org</a>                                                                                               | Family Medicine, Women's Health, Behavioral Health, Maternal-Infant Health, Dental Services, Homeless Services, WIC Services, Sliding Fee Payment Program, and offer referral to services needed in the community | Yes/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)   |
| Harbor Impact                  | 1963 North Allen Rd Kimball, MI 48074     | 810-662-3936<br><a href="https://www.harborimpactministries.com">https://www.harborimpactministries.com</a>                                                                                   | "Provided by a Nurse Practitioner, blood pressure testing, health counseling, incontinence products and provision of certain medical supplies"                                                                    | Yes/Informal                            |
| Lake Huron Medical Center      | 2601 Electric Avenue Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810-216-1500<br><a href="https://mylakehuron.com">https://mylakehuron.com</a>                                                                                                                 | Referrals to HARA homeless                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes/Informal                            |
| McLaren Hospital               | 1221 Pine Grove Port Huron, MI 48060      | 810-987-5000<br><a href="https://www.mclaren.org">https://www.mclaren.org</a>                                                                                                                 | Referrals to HARA homeless                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes/Informal                            |
| Norserv Group, LTD             | 1322 North River Rd. St. Clair, MI 48079  | 810-329-4798<br><a href="https://www.norserv.com/Norserv_Home.html">https://www.norserv.com/Norserv_Home.html</a>                                                                             | Referrals, Mental Health Counseling                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes/Informal                            |
| People's Clinic                | 3111 Electric Ave. Port Huron, MI 48060   | 810-985-4747<br><a href="https://mylakehuron.com/lake-huron-foundation/peoples-clinic-for-better-health/">https://mylakehuron.com/lake-huron-foundation/peoples-clinic-for-better-health/</a> | Referrals, no cost for those under or uninsured                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes/Informal                            |
| Physician Health Care Network  | 3050 Commerce Dr. Fort Gratiot, MI 48059  | 810-385-4441<br><a href="https://physicianhealthcarenetwork.com">https://physicianhealthcarenetwork.com</a>                                                                                   | Referrals                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Yes/Informal                            |



**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?**  
*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

| Program Name                                             | Address                                                 | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                                      | Services Provided                                                                                                                     | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Spero Pregnancy Center</b>                            | 1211 Griswold St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060               | 810-985-HOPE<br><a href="https://sperocenter.com">https://sperocenter.com</a>                                                                                                                               | Referrals                                                                                                                             | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>St. Clair County Health Department</b>                | 3415 28th St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                   | 810-987-5300<br><a href="https://stclaircounty.org/pagebuilder/scchd/">https://stclaircounty.org/pagebuilder/scchd/</a>                                                                                     | Disaster assistance/eviction assistance funds                                                                                         | Yes/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)   |
| <b>Visiting Nurse Association and Blue Water Hospice</b> | 3403 Lapeer Rd.,<br>Suite B 101<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810-984-4131<br><a href="https://vnabwh.org">https://vnabwh.org</a>                                                                                                                                         | Referrals                                                                                                                             | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>My Community Dental Care</b>                          | 3037 Electric Avenue<br>Port Huron, MI 48060            | 810-984-5197 or 877-313-6232<br><a href="https://www.uwstclair.org/MCDC">https://www.uwstclair.org/MCDC</a>                                                                                                 | Dental care for adults and children with Medicaid, private insurance or those who are uninsured, reduced fees for uninsured veterans. | No                                      |
| <b>Smile Michigan</b>                                    |                                                         | <a href="https://www.smilemichigan.com/resources/free-reduced-fee-dental-programs-in-michigan/st-clair/">https://www.smilemichigan.com/resources/free-reduced-fee-dental-programs-in-michigan/st-clair/</a> | Free and reduced fee dental programs in Michigan                                                                                      | No                                      |

### Protection from Domestic Violence

| Program Name                                      | Address                                  | Phone Number / Website                                                                            | Services Provided                                                       | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Blue Water Safe Horizons (Carolyn's Place)</b> | 1840 Grant Place<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810-989-5246<br><a href="https://bluewatersafehorizons.org">https://bluewatersafehorizons.org</a> | Shelter for DV clients, 24 hr. crisis hotline, advocacy, support groups | Yes/Informal                            |

### Rent Assistance

| Program Name                                          | Address                                                | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Services Provided                                                                                                                                                                                          | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Community Management Associates</b>                | 18051 Northland Dr.<br>Big Rapids, MI 49307            | 231-796-8883<br><a href="http://www.cma-inc.org">http://www.cma-inc.org</a>                                                                                                                                                             | HCV assistance, "rental assistance programs, we offer a variety of housing-related programs and services promoting home ownership, educating renters and landlords, and improving existing housing stock." | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Department of Health and Human Services</b>        | 220 Fort St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                   | 810-966-2000<br><a href="https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs">https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs</a>                                                                                                                                             | DHHS services for HARA clients. Housing, SNAP, etc.                                                                                                                                                        | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Michigan State Housing Development Authority</b>   | 3028 W. Grand Blvd,<br>Ste 4-600,<br>Detroit, MI 48202 | 517-335-0605<br><a href="https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/appointments/oma/all/3/michigan-state-housing-development-authority">https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/appointments/oma/all/3/michigan-state-housing-development-authority</a> | HARA funds                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)   |
| <b>Port Huron Housing Commission &amp; Foundation</b> | 705 7th St<br>Port Huron, MI 48060                     | 810-984-3173<br><a href="https://www.phhousing.org">https://www.phhousing.org</a>                                                                                                                                                       | Low Income Housing, Housing Assistance                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes/Informal                            |

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?

*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

| Program Name                       | Address                                       | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                        | Services Provided                                       | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Salvation Army (Local)             | 2000 Court St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060        | 810-984-2679<br><a href="https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/porthuron/">https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/porthuron/</a> | Monetary assistance for housing/utilities and Referrals | Yes/Informal                            |
| St. Clair County Health Department | 3415 28th St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060         | 810-987-5300<br><a href="https://stclaircounty.org/pagebuilder/scchd/">https://stclaircounty.org/pagebuilder/scchd/</a>       | Disaster assistance/eviction assistance funds           | Yes/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)   |
| United Way of St. Clair County     | 1723 Military St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060     | 810-985-8169<br><a href="https://www.uwstclair.org">https://www.uwstclair.org</a>                                             | Monetary assistance for housing/utilities               | Yes/Informal                            |
| St. Clair Housing Commission       | 400 South Third St.<br>Clair, MI 48079        | 810-329-9141<br><a href="https://stclairhousingcommission.org">https://stclairhousingcommission.org</a>                       | Low-income housing                                      | No                                      |
| Council on Aging - Port Huron      | 600 Grand River Ave.,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810-987-8811<br><a href="https://thecouncilonaging.org">https://thecouncilonaging.org</a>                                     | M-F, 8:30-3:30pm, door to door pick up service          | Yes/Informal                            |

### Youth Enrichment/Support

| Program Name                                      | Address                                           | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Services Provided                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| A Beautiful Me                                    | 310 Huron Avenue, Suite 2<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810-662-3248<br><a href="https://www.abeautifulme.com">https://www.abeautifulme.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Female youth empowerment group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Yes/Informal                            |
| Community Enterprises of St. Clair County         | 1033 26th St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060             | 810-982-3261<br><a href="https://www.cescc.org">https://www.cescc.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Referrals, Programs for individuals with disabilities to teach life skills and supportive living                                                                                                                                                                                           | Yes/Informal                            |
| Disability Network Eastern Michigan (DNEM)        | 4351 24th Ave, Ste. 1 Ft.<br>Gratiot, MI 48059    | 810-987-9337<br><a href="https://www.dnemichigan.org">https://www.dnemichigan.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Transition services, skills and vocational training                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes/Informal                            |
| Ennis Center for Children Inc.                    | 222 Huron Ave.,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060           | 888-200-8915<br><a href="https://www.enniscenter.org">https://www.enniscenter.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Referrals, Outpatient counseling, youth assistance program                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes/Informal                            |
| SONS Ministry                                     | 2524 Vanness St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060          | 810-989-7667<br><a href="https://www.sonsoutreach.org">https://www.sonsoutreach.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Referrals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Yes/Informal                            |
| YMCA of the Blue Water Area                       | 1525 3rd St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060              | 810-987-6400<br><a href="https://www.bluewaterymca.com">https://www.bluewaterymca.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Fitness programs, enrichment programs, before and afterschool camps                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes/Informal                            |
| Community Foundation of St. Clair County          | 500 Water St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060             | 810-984-4761<br><a href="https://www.stclairfoundation.org/funds/youth/">https://www.stclairfoundation.org/funds/youth/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                      | Youth development fund                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | No                                      |
| 4-H Youth Programs St. Clair County               |                                                   | 810-989-6935<br><a href="https://legacy.stclaircounty.org/Offices/msue/4H/Default.aspx">https://legacy.stclaircounty.org/Offices/msue/4H/Default.aspx</a>                                                                                                                                                        | "4-H projects provide youth with the opportunity to build life skills that may be applied to future career choices."                                                                                                                                                                       | No                                      |
| St. Clair County Technical Education Center (TEC) | 499 Range Road,<br>Marysville, MI 48040           | 810-455-1010<br><a href="https://www.stec.org">https://www.stec.org</a><br><a href="https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1658843490/sccresaorg/xmxqh2lkdbkpgqxuusi/20223TECProgramsGuide.pdf">https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1658843490/sccresaorg/xmxqh2lkdbkpgqxuusi/20223TECProgramsGuide.pdf</a> | A career-related training program for juniors and seniors in public high school. 14 programs including automotive technology, collision repair, construction trades, cosmetology, culinary arts, computer programming, and cybersecurity, early childhood education development, and more. | No                                      |

**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?**  
*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

**Public Transportation**

| Program Name                          | Address                                       | Phone Number / Website                                                                    | Services Provided                              | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Blue Water Area Transportation</b> | 2021 Lapeer Road<br>Port Huron, MI 48060      | (810) 987-7373<br><a href="https://bwbus.com">https://bwbus.com</a>                       | Bus/Public Transportation                      | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Council on Aging - Port Huron</b>  | 600 Grand River Ave.,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810-987-8811<br><a href="https://thecouncilonaging.org">https://thecouncilonaging.org</a> | M-F, 8:30-3:30pm, door to door pick up service | Yes/Informal                            |

**Community and State Services that Support Pre-K Children with Special Needs**

| Program Name                                                 | Address                                            | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                                        | Services Provided                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Great Start Collaborative - St. Clair County</b>          | 499 Range Rd., PO Box<br>1500 Marysville, MI 48040 | 810-455-4397<br><a href="https://www.sccresa.org/services-a-z/early-childhood-services/great-start-collaborative">https://www.sccresa.org/services-a-z/early-childhood-services/great-start-collaborative</a> | Regional Educational Service, the collaborative is funded through the Michigan Department of Education                                                                                                                                                          | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Michigan Alliance for Families</b>                        |                                                    | 1-800-552-4821<br><a href="https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org">https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org</a>                                                                                       | “Statewide resource to connect families of children with disabilities to resources to help improve their children’s education. We help facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving educational services and outcomes for students with disabilities.” | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Social Security Administration</b>                        | 2620 Kraft Rd F<br>Port Gratiot, MI 48059          | 877-895-0042                                                                                                                                                                                                  | SSDI/SSI Benefits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>St. Clair County Community Mental Health</b>              | 3111 Electric Ave.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060         | 810-985-8900<br><a href="https://scccmh.org">https://scccmh.org</a>                                                                                                                                           | In kind and referrals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Yes/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)   |
| <b>St. Clair County Regional Educational Services - RESA</b> | 499 Range Rd.<br>Marysville, MI 48040              | 810-364-8990<br><a href="https://www.sccresa.org">https://www.sccresa.org</a>                                                                                                                                 | Referrals, IT Services, etc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Yes/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)   |
| <b>The Arc of St. Clair County</b>                           | 1530 Pine Grove Ave #1<br>Port Huron, MI 48060     | 810-989-9144<br><a href="https://www.thearcsc.org">https://www.thearcsc.org</a>                                                                                                                               | Referrals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Early on Michigan</b>                                     |                                                    | 1-800-327-5966<br><a href="https://1800earlyon.org">https://1800earlyon.org</a>                                                                                                                               | <i>Early On</i> is Michigan's system for helping families of infants and toddlers, birth to age 3 who have developmental delay(s) and/or disabilities.                                                                                                          | No                                      |
| <b>Bridges4Kids</b>                                          |                                                    | <a href="https://www.bridges4kids.org/counties/StClair.htm">https://www.bridges4kids.org/counties/StClair.htm</a>                                                                                             | Website for parents looking for resources related to many issues throughout childhood into adolescence                                                                                                                                                          | No                                      |

**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?**  
*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

**Other**

| Program Name                                             | Address                                       | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                      | Services Provided                                                                                                      | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>72nd District Court (St. Clair Co)</b>                | 201 McMorran Blvd.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060    | 810-985-2077<br><a href="https://legacy.stclaircounty.org/Offices/courts/district/Default.aspx?meid=392">https://legacy.stclaircounty.org/Offices/courts/district/Default.aspx?meid=392</a> | Referrals to HARA prevention                                                                                           | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Advia Credit Union</b>                                | 500 10th Street Port Huron, MI 48060          | 844-238-4228<br><a href="https://www.adviacu.org/selfservice/locations/port-huron">https://www.adviacu.org/selfservice/locations/port-huron</a>                                             | Banking services                                                                                                       | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Blue Water Area Chamber</b>                           | 512 McMorran Blvd.<br>Port Huron MI 48060     | 810-985-7101<br><a href="https://www.bluewaterchamber.com">https://www.bluewaterchamber.com</a>                                                                                             |                                                                                                                        | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Blue Water Recovery &amp; Outreach Center (BWROC)</b> | 617 10th St.,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060         | 810-689-4858<br><a href="https://www.bwroc.org">https://www.bwroc.org</a>                                                                                                                   | Substance Use and Recovery help                                                                                        | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Brenda Hoffman/KW Platinum</b>                        | 31525 23 Mile Rd.<br>Chesterfield, MI 48047   | 810-941-4384                                                                                                                                                                                | Brenda serves as a guest realtor and presents at our Homebuyer Education classes                                       | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Bridge Builders Counseling &amp; Mentoring</b>        | 1331 Chestnut St.,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060    | 810-987-8772<br><a href="https://bridgebuilderscm.org">https://bridgebuilderscm.org</a>                                                                                                     | Counseling services, referrals                                                                                         | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan</b>          | 2601 13th Street,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060     | 1-855-882-2736<br><a href="https://www.ccsem.org">https://www.ccsem.org</a>                                                                                                                 | Provides Referrals, Behavioral Health Counseling, Family Support Services, Refugee Resettlement Services, Legal Clinic | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Center for Human Resources &amp; I.M.P.A.C.T.</b>     | 1001 Military Street,<br>Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810-985-5437<br><a href="https://www.impactph.org">https://www.impactph.org</a>                                                                                                             | Provides Referrals                                                                                                     | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>City of Marysville</b>                                | 1355 Delaware Ave.<br>Marysville, MI 48040    | 810-364-6613<br><a href="https://www.cityofmarysvillemi.com">https://www.cityofmarysvillemi.com</a>                                                                                         | Provides Referrals                                                                                                     | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>City of Port Huron</b>                                | 100 McMorran Blvd.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060    | 810-984-9736<br><a href="https://www.porthuron.org">https://www.porthuron.org</a>                                                                                                           | Community Development/HARA grant                                                                                       | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Community Mental Health</b>                           | 3111 Electric Ave.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060    | 810-985-8900<br><a href="https://scccmh.org">https://scccmh.org</a>                                                                                                                         | Mental Health care for homeless clients                                                                                | Yes/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)   |
| <b>Council on Aging - Port Huron</b>                     | 600 Grand River Ave.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060  | 810-987-8811<br><a href="https://thecouncilonaging.org">https://thecouncilonaging.org</a>                                                                                                   | Referrals                                                                                                              | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Donna Hazelwood/KW Platinum</b>                       | 3750 Pine Grove Ave<br>Fort Gratiot, MI 48059 | 810-990-4652                                                                                                                                                                                | Donna serves as a guest realtor and presents at our Homebuyer Education classes                                        | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>East China School District</b>                        | 1585 Meisner Rd.<br>East China, MI 48054      | 810-676-1000<br><a href="https://www.eastchinaschools.org">https://www.eastchinaschools.org</a>                                                                                             | Referrals                                                                                                              | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>Goodwill Industries of St. Clair County</b>           | 1013 26th Street<br>Port Huron, MI            | 810-987-9333<br><a href="https://www.goodwillsc.org">https://www.goodwillsc.org</a>                                                                                                         | Referrals                                                                                                              | Yes/Informal                            |

**Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**  
**MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?**  
*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

| Program Name                          | Address                                       | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                                                                      | Services Provided                                                                                                       | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Human Development Commission - CARO   | 429 Montague Ave.<br>Caro, MI 48723           | 989-673-4121<br><a href="https://hdc-caro.org">https://hdc-caro.org</a>                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                         | Yes/Informal                            |
| Hunter Hospitality House              | 1010 Lincoln Ave.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060     | 810-824-3679<br><a href="https://www.hunterhospitalityhouse.com">https://www.hunterhospitalityhouse.com</a>                                                                                 | Referrals, free place to stay near the local hospital for families to stay when a family member is undergoing treatment | Yes/Informal                            |
| Ira Township                          | 7085 Meldrum Rd.<br>Fair Haven, MI 48023      |                                                                                                                                                                                             | Referrals                                                                                                               | Yes/Informal                            |
| Kids in Distress                      | 1114 South Seventh St.<br>St. Clair, MI 48079 | 810-326-4505<br><a href="https://kidsindistressservices.org">https://kidsindistressservices.org</a>                                                                                         | Referrals                                                                                                               | Yes/Informal                            |
| Kimball Township                      | 2160 Wadhams Rd.<br>Kimball, MI 48074         |                                                                                                                                                                                             | Referrals                                                                                                               | Yes/Informal                            |
| Lakeshore Legal Aid                   | 803 10th Ave.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060         | 810-985-5107<br><a href="https://lakeshorelegalaids.org">https://lakeshorelegalaids.org</a>                                                                                                 | Referrals to HARA, Legal services                                                                                       | Yes/Informal                            |
| Lakeside Pediatric Dentistry          | 1952 Holland Avenue,<br>Port Huron, MI        | 810-985-9660<br><a href="https://lakesidepediatricdentistry.net">https://lakesidepediatricdentistry.net</a>                                                                                 | Referrals                                                                                                               | Yes/Informal                            |
| Lorraine Frendt/Coldwell Banker       | 1122 S Lapeer Rd Ste D,<br>Port Huron, MI     | 810-98701424                                                                                                                                                                                | Lorraine serves as a guest realtor and presents at our Homebuyer Education classes                                      | Yes/Informal                            |
| Aaron Hulett/MI Mutual                | 911 Military St<br>Port Huron, MI 48060       | 810-989-6041                                                                                                                                                                                | Aaron serves as a guest loan officer and presents at our Homebuyer Education classes                                    | Yes/Informal                            |
| MSU Extension - St. Clair County      | 200 Grand River #102<br>Port Huron, MI 48060  | 810-989-6935<br><a href="https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_clair/county-extension-office">https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_clair/county-extension-office</a>                                           | Referrals                                                                                                               | Yes/Informal                            |
| Office of Emergency Management        | 295 Airport Dr.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060       | 810-989-6965<br><a href="https://www.porthuron.org/departments/fire_department/emergency_management.php">https://www.porthuron.org/departments/fire_department/emergency_management.php</a> | Assistance during disasters                                                                                             | Yes/Informal                            |
| Operation Transformation              | 1904 Poplar St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060       | 810-966-8660<br><a href="https://www.optrans.org">https://www.optrans.org</a>                                                                                                               | Referrals to HARA, funds for homeless shelter                                                                           | Yes/Informal                            |
| Penny Mertz, Union Home Mortgage      | 619 Huron Ave<br>Port Huron, MI 48060         | 810-432-0642                                                                                                                                                                                | Penny serves as a guest loan officer and presents at our Homebuyer Education classes                                    | Yes/Informal                            |
| Professional Counseling Center PC     | 520 Superior St.<br>Port Huron, MI 48060      | 810-984-4202<br><a href="http://pccporthuron.com">http://pccporthuron.com</a>                                                                                                               | Referrals                                                                                                               | Yes/Informal                            |
| Region 10 - PIHP                      | 2186 Water Street<br>Port Huron, MI 48060     | 810-966-3388<br><a href="https://www.region10pihp.org">https://www.region10pihp.org</a>                                                                                                     | Referrals                                                                                                               | Yes/Informal                            |
| RESA- McKinney Vento Liaison          | 499 Range Rd.<br>Marysville, MI 48040         | 810-455-4022<br><a href="https://www.sccresa.org/community/homeless-student-assistance">https://www.sccresa.org/community/homeless-student-assistance</a>                                   | Education assistance for homeless youth                                                                                 | Yes/Informal                            |
| Sacred Heart Substance Abuse Services | 400 Stoddard Rd.<br>Richmond, MI 48062        | 810-392-2167<br><a href="https://sacredheartcenter.com">https://sacredheartcenter.com</a>                                                                                                   | Referrals - Homeless                                                                                                    | Yes/Informal                            |

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these community(ies)?

*Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements, and Partnerships*

| Program Name                                           | Address                                            | Phone Number / Website                                                                                                                | Services Provided              | Existing Partnership with BWCA (Yes/No) |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>SEMCO Energy - EWR Program</b>                      | 1411 3rd Street Port Huron, MI 48060               | 810-887-4143<br><a href="https://www.semcoenergygas.com/residential-savings/">https://www.semcoenergygas.com/residential-savings/</a> | Energy Waste Reduction Rebates | Yes/Contract                            |
| <b>St. Clair County Child Abuse and Neglect</b>        | 1107 Military Street Port Huron, MI 48060          | 810-966-9911<br><a href="https://sccstopchildabuse.org">https://sccstopchildabuse.org</a>                                             | Trainings                      | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>St. Clair County Department of Veterans Affairs</b> | 200 Grand River Ave Suite 104 Port Huron, MI 48060 | 810-989-6945<br><a href="https://sccvet.us">https://sccvet.us</a>                                                                     | Referrals                      | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>St. Clair County Sherriff's Office</b>              | 1170 Michigan Rd. Port Huron, MI 48060             | 810-987-1700<br><a href="https://www.stclaircounty.org/SubHome/Index/647">https://www.stclaircounty.org/SubHome/Index/647</a>         | Referrals                      | Yes/Informal                            |
| <b>St. Vincent DePaul</b>                              | 3198 Gratiot Blvd Marysville, MI 48040             | 810-204-9835                                                                                                                          | Referrals to HARA              | Yes/Informal                            |

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 5: Are we providing services in the right locations?

#### Geographic Location of Eligible Children and Families

## MODULE 5: ARE WE PROVIDING SERVICES IN THE RIGHT LOCATIONS?

### Geographic Location of Eligible Children and Families

Based on the 2021 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates), in the United States, there are approximately 4.2 million children, ages 0-5, living in poverty. The state of Texas has the highest number of children, ages 0-5, living in poverty (491,618), followed by California (449,093) and Florida (256,835) (Figure 42). Based on census data there are a total of 137,661 children, ages 0-5, living in poverty in Michigan.

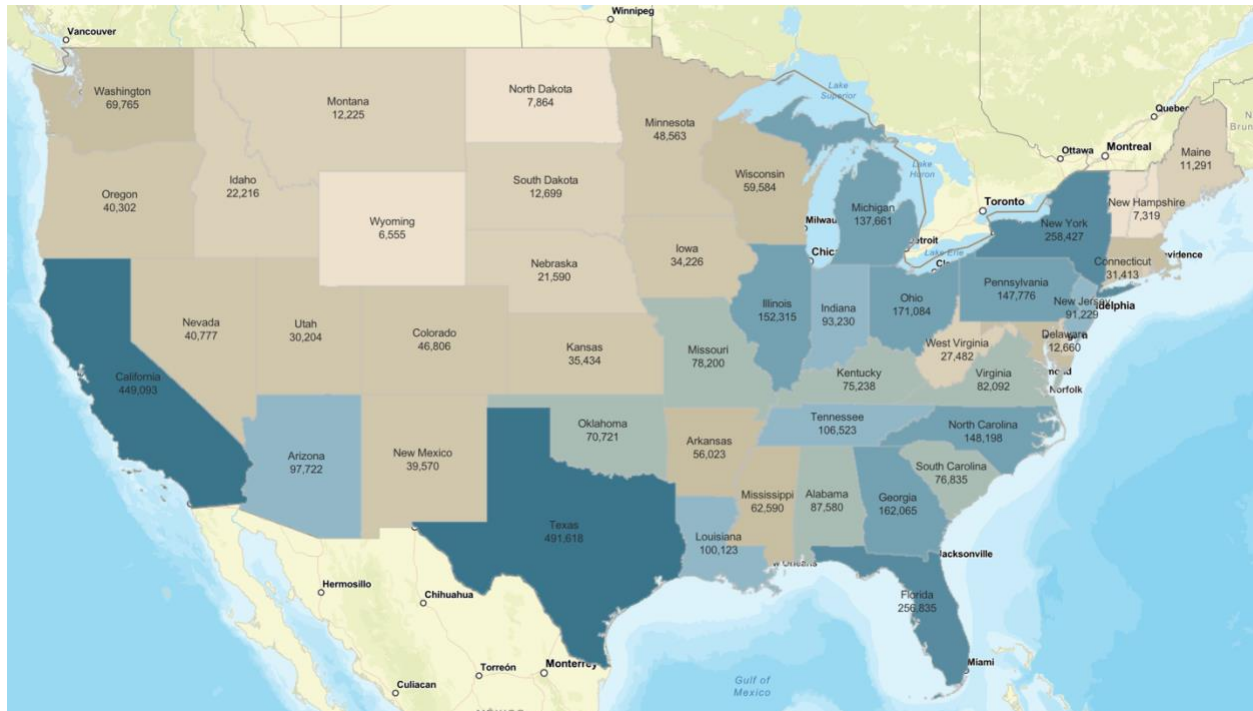


Figure 42: United States: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

### Blue Water Community Action Service Area

Of the more than 137,000 children, ages 0-5, living in poverty in Michigan, 1,658 are in St. Clair County (Table 75). Using the [Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex by the U.S. Census Bureau](#), an estimated 49 percent of children, ages 0-5, in poverty, are Early Head Start-eligible infants and toddlers (812). Approximately 34 percent are Head Start-eligible 3- and 4-year-old children (564), and approximately 17 percent are 5-year-olds (282).

#### Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

|                  | Under 6 Years | Est. 0-2  | Est. 3-4  | Est. 5  |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| United States    | 4,227,649     | 2,071,548 | 1,437,401 | 718,700 |
| Michigan         | 137,661       | 67,454    | 46,805    | 23,402  |
| St. Clair County | 1,658         | 812       | 564       | 282     |

Table 75: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 5: Are we providing services in the right locations?

#### Geographic Location of Eligible Children and Families

##### Census Tracts

To better estimate the geographic location of eligible children and families, the number of children, ages 0-5, in poverty was studied by census tract. A census tract is a statistical subdivision with at least 1,200 residents, a maximum of 8,000 residents, and an average of 4,000 residents.<sup>cxxvii</sup>

The following figure illustrates the number of children, ages 0-5, in poverty in St. Clair County, as well as the location of all Head Start and Early Head Start centers (**black dots**) based on a November 1, 2023, center search on the [Office of Head Start's Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center \(ECLKC\)](#); all Head Start and Early Head Start centers in St. Clair County are represented by **red dots**.

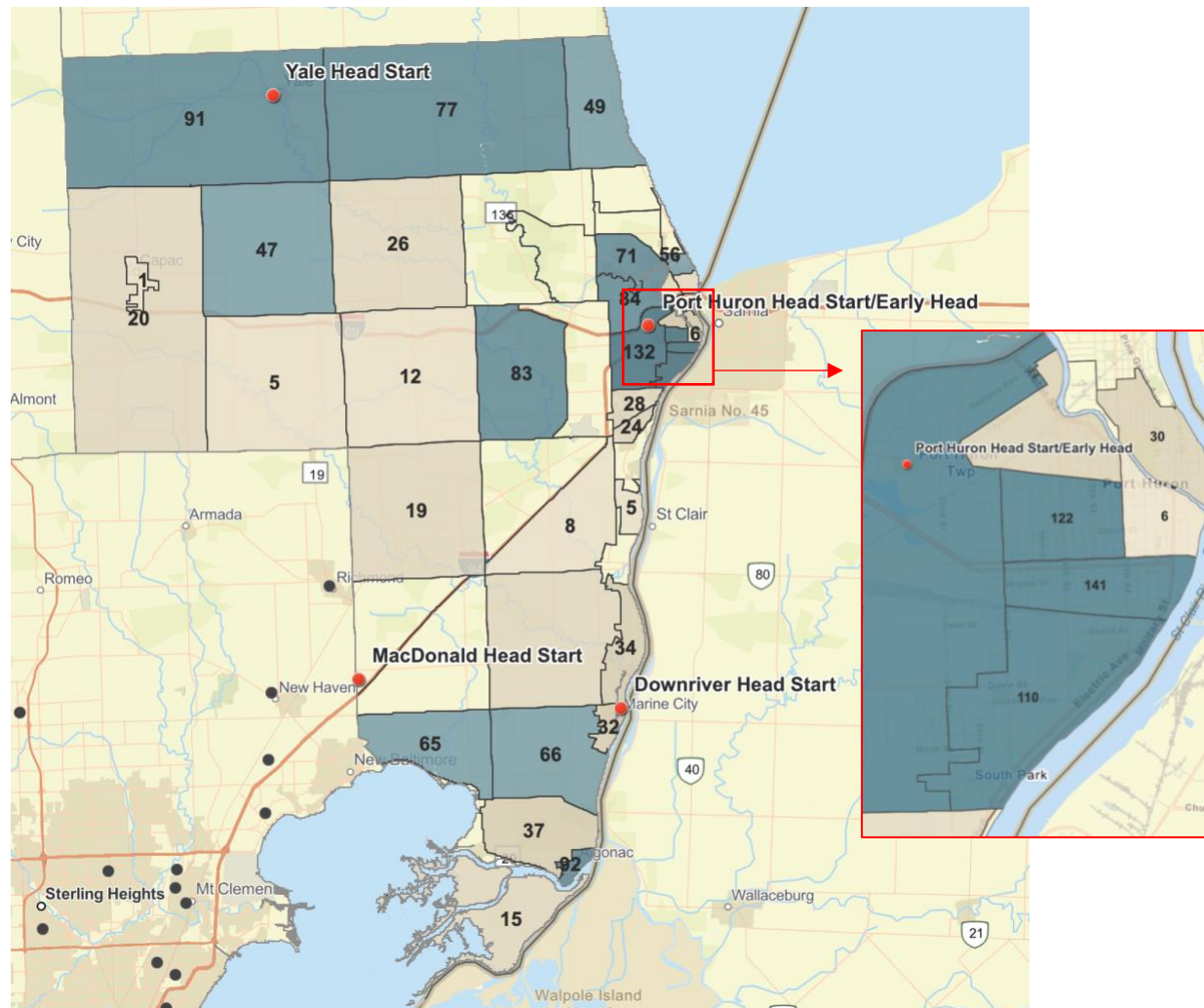


Figure 43: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty by Census Tract (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

In order to navigate the map in more detail, please use the following ArcGIS link: <https://arcg.is/00P41n>.

Note: Numbers reported in the census tracts are the total number of children, ages 0-5, in poverty. Unshaded census tracts did not report any children, ages 0-5, in poverty.



## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 5: Are we providing services in the right locations?

#### Geographic Location of Eligible Children and Families

In St. Clair County, there are a total of 51 census tracts, of which 17 reported having no children, ages 0-5, in poverty (Table 76). Census tract 6210 reported the highest number of children, ages 0-5, in poverty, 141 children, followed by census tract 6360 with 132 children.

| Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty             |     |
|------------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i> |     |
| Census Tract 6210                        | 141 |
| Census Tract 6360                        | 132 |
| Census Tract 6220                        | 122 |
| Census Tract 6200                        | 110 |
| Census Tract 6490                        | 92  |
| Census Tract 6551                        | 91  |
| Census Tract 6350                        | 84  |
| Census Tract 6341                        | 83  |
| Census Tract 6556                        | 77  |
| Census Tract 6304                        | 71  |
| Census Tract 6450                        | 66  |
| Census Tract 6501                        | 65  |
| Census Tract 6290                        | 56  |
| Census Tract 6320                        | 49  |
| Census Tract 6581                        | 47  |
| Census Tract 6230                        | 41  |
| Census Tract 6460                        | 37  |
| Census Tract 6430                        | 34  |
| Census Tract 6440                        | 32  |
| Census Tract 6250.01                     | 30  |
| Census Tract 6371                        | 28  |
| Census Tract 6521                        | 26  |
| Census Tract 6372                        | 24  |
| Census Tract 6410                        | 24  |
| Census Tract 6572                        | 20  |
| Census Tract 6516                        | 19  |
| Census Tract 6480                        | 15  |

| Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty             |    |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| <i>Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i> |    |
| Census Tract 6526                        | 12 |
| Census Tract 6402                        | 8  |
| Census Tract 6240                        | 6  |
| Census Tract 6280                        | 5  |
| Census Tract 6401                        | 5  |
| Census Tract 6585                        | 5  |
| Census Tract 6571                        | 1  |
| Census Tract 6260.01                     | 0  |
| Census Tract 6270                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6301                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6311                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6316                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6331                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6332                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6346                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6373                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6406                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6420                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6470                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6502                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6511                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 6512                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 9890                        | 0  |
| Census Tract 9900                        | 0  |

Table 76: Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty by Census Tract (2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

## MODULE 6: WHAT ARE THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY(IES) SAYING?

### Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families Community

#### Parent and Client Survey Responses

In order to collect primary data from Blue Water Community Action community members, clients, and parents and guardians, a Family Needs Survey was distributed in English and Spanish. A total of 108 surveys were completed and returned. The following is a summary of the survey findings. To access the full survey, please click this [link](#).

#### Survey Respondent Characteristics

Of those who responded, the majority indicated their race/ethnicity to be White (87.8 percent), followed by Black (11.1 percent) and Hispanic (8.9 percent). Forty-one percent of respondents were employed full time at the time of the survey. Seventy-four percent of respondents indicated they do have a computer at home; similarly, 90 percent of survey participants stated they have an internet connection at home and 98 percent have a mobile phone with text capability. Finally, 90 percent of respondents indicated that they do have access to a bank or credit union account.

#### Perception of Problems and Poverty in the Community

Survey participants were asked to rate a list of more than 20 items on a scale of 1 (Not a Problem) to 5 (Very Serious Problem) based on their perception of the item being a problem in the community. According to those who responded to the survey, high cost of utilities (heating, electricity, water) and low wages were rated the most significant problems in their community with a rating of 4.25 and 4.15, respectively. Additionally, high cost of utilities (heating, electricity, water) was rated as a “Very Serious Problem” in their community by 55.7 percent of respondents and availability of affordable housing was rated as a “Very Serious Problem” by 56.2 percent of respondents.

The perception of why poverty exists in a community can range greatly. Survey participants who answered this question indicated the top three reasons for poverty in their community to include the following: (1) housing costs are too high, (2) wages are too low, and (3) people don’t want to work.

#### Family Needs and Services in the Community

Survey takers responded to the question asking if they or someone in their immediate family experienced a time in the past year where they needed a particular service or experienced particular situations related to inadequate income. The top three needs included the following: (1) needed to see a dentist but could not afford to (50.9 percent), (2) needed food but couldn’t afford to buy it (48.1 percent), and (3) needed to buy medicine but couldn’t afford to (47.6 percent).

When asked what two or three things are most important to improve the household or family’s quality of life, top answers included higher wages, health care, housing, and transportation. Examples of answers

## **Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**

### **MODULE 6: What are the residents of the community(ies) saying?**

#### *Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families Community*

grouped into the “Personal and Family Goals” category included stability, focusing on self-love, and someone to help me organize my apartment.

Furthermore, respondents selected places that teach people how to make a budget and save money, places that teach about saving for retirement, and legal aid as top needs for services in their community. When asked which programs are used the most (aside from Blue Water Community Action), the top three answers included: Food Stamps/EBT/SNAP, Social Security, and Food Banks/Food Pantries.

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 6: What are the residents of the community(ies) saying?

*Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families Community*

#### Focus Groups

A focus group with BWCA Community Leaders and Partners was conducted on September 29, 2023. Below is a summary and analysis of the themes that arose during that conversation. Several CSBG clients were also invited to participate in a focus group but due to scheduling conflicts, were not able to participate; instead, their feedback was collected via a survey and incorporated into the focus group responses.

**Question:** What factors contribute most significantly to poverty in your community, county, or area?

#### Responses:

##### Low Wages and Employment Type:

- The community predominantly has factory-based employment, which primarily supplies the auto industry.
- Pay is approximately \$15 an hour.

##### Lack of Affordable Housing:

- There is a significant need for more affordable housing.
- People struggle to afford rent and live in safe neighborhoods.

##### Single Parent Population:

- There is a notable population of single parents, which may imply financial challenges without dual incomes.

##### Limited Educational Opportunities:

- Limited secondary educational opportunities exist.
- Only one community college is available; the previous four-year institution, Baker College, is no longer operational.
- People must travel outside the community (typically an hour away) to pursue degrees beyond an associates or technical training.

##### Transportation Challenges:

- There are limited transportation modes to larger centers.
- While there is a decent local transportation system, not all community areas participate.
- Longer-distance traveling, vital for jobs and education, needs to be revised.

##### Generational Poverty:

- Persistent generational poverty exists.
- The same families are seen year after year with consistent economic challenges, affecting multiple generations.

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 6: What are the residents of the community(ies) saying?

#### *Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families Community*

##### Young Parents:

- Many teenagers and young adults are having children without being fully prepared for parenthood's financial and general responsibilities.
- Many children are in the foster care system, potentially pointing to unstable family environments or financial hardships.

##### Rural and Agricultural Communities:

- A significant portion of the county comprises rural areas with a lot of agriculture.
- Some immigrant workers might be seasonal or not permanently based, affecting community resources and structures.

**Moderator's Probe about External Factors:** Dr. Martinez, the moderator, asked about external events, like pandemics or political changes, and how they might have influenced poverty levels. The responses indicated a situational increase in poverty, especially with unprepared young adults becoming parents and the resultant rise in the foster care population.

**Analysis:** The community appears to face a multifaceted challenge regarding poverty. Structural issues such as employment type, wage levels, and education accessibility seem to form the base of the problem. Layered on top are social issues like generational poverty, young, unprepared parents, and the challenges single parents face. Infrastructure problems like transportation and the dynamics of the rural-agricultural landscape with immigrant workers add complexity. A comprehensive approach to addressing poverty in this community would need to consider all these aspects.

**Question:** What are the top priorities that could influence the economic stability of families in your county over the next four years?

##### **Responses:**

##### Lack of Opportunities:

- The community needs more opportunities, spanning education, employment, training, and services.
- Although available services are of high quality, accessibility is an issue.
- The community's political landscape, leaning towards Republican values (approximately 60-65% of residents), impacts the acceptance and use of potential programs, services, and funding that other communities might leverage.
- Lack of access to healthy, nutritious food.

##### Slow Growth & Low Professional Pay:

- Many higher-educated individuals travel out of the county for work due to better opportunities elsewhere.
- Even at the professional level, the pay must be commensurate with the cost of living, influencing the county's slow growth.

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 6: What are the residents of the community(ies) saying?

#### *Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families Community*

##### Inconsistent Wi-Fi Access:

- Some parts of the county need more consistent access to Wi-Fi.
- During the pandemic, when education shifted to virtual mode, children in these areas could not participate, causing a significant disruption to their education.

##### Pandemic's Lasting Impact:

- There are concerns about the long-term impact of the pandemic on the community, especially regarding children's education.
- There is ongoing anxiety and uncertainty about when these sentiments will diminish.

##### Need for Preventive Measures:

- While there are many services in the community, there needs to be more emphasis on prevention.
- There is a need to focus on early intervention before parents decide to have children.
- The community currently has a reactive approach, often dealing with issues after they have become problems, especially for older kids.

##### Homelessness:

- The community faces challenges with its homeless population.
- There is a consistent struggle to find resources to address the needs of the homeless.

**Analysis:** The focus group feedback suggested that the community's top priorities over the next four years should address the lack of opportunities, especially in education and employment. Low professional pay must be tackled to prevent brain drain and ensure local economic growth. Infrastructure, particularly Wi-Fi access, needs to be improved to ensure inclusivity. Addressing the long-term impacts of the pandemic, especially in terms of mental well-being and education disruption, will be crucial. Shifting from a reactive to a preventive service approach can lead to more sustainable solutions. Lastly, tackling homelessness through consistent and reliable resources should be a priority. The political dynamics of the community could also play a role in addressing these challenges.

#### **Question:** How do most individuals in your county generate income for themselves?

##### **Responses:**

##### Primary Employment Sectors:

- Health care and the school district are the top employers.
- Manufacturing exists, but it has been waning due to frequent closures, especially of paper mills, which has led to local economic strains.
- Service industries like malls and food services are also prevalent, as is common in many communities.

##### Rural Regions and Service Industry:

- Many parts of the county are rural, which only sometimes supports service-type industries.

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### MODULE 6: What are the residents of the community(ies) saying?

#### *Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families Community*

- A noticeable workforce shortage post-pandemic affects service quality and operation hours in places like restaurants.

#### Workforce Issues and the Service Industry:

- While plenty of potential workers exist, there is a reluctance to re-enter the service industry, suggesting a pay gap issue.
- Health care training is present, notably in a well-recognized nursing program at the community college. However, graduates often leave for better pay elsewhere. The program is limited, only offering an associate degree in nursing, not a Bachelor of Science, which is more desirable for larger medical centers.

#### Commute and Relocation Trends:

- The county is close to Detroit (about 15 minutes away), and many residents commute for work.
- Upon reaching adulthood or post-college, younger individuals often leave the county and do not return, leading to a brain drain.
- There are some financial incentives offered by the Community Foundation to entice people to return.
- A highlighted trend is the overall aging of Michigan residents, with the median age being 40. This suggests that younger individuals may leave the county and the state.

#### Residents' Background and Age:

- Some participants grew up in the county and moved away for various reasons (like education) but later returned, especially when starting families.
- Many people who are retired are on limited, fixed incomes.

**Analysis:** The county's primary income sources are the health care, education, and service industries. However, the county is facing several challenges. The decline in manufacturing, especially with the closure of paper mills, has impacted the local economy. Post-pandemic effects have led to workforce shortages in the service industry, raising concerns about pay gaps that dissuade people from re-entering these jobs.

Additionally, while educational programs exist in fields like nursing, limitations in degree offerings and more attractive pay outside the county cause many to seek employment elsewhere. This departure of younger individuals is a significant concern, leading to brain drain and an aging demographic.

In conclusion, for sustainable economic growth and stability, the county may need to improve pay scales, expand educational offerings, and create incentives to retain its younger population.

### **Question:** How are the Local Leaders and Service Providers Addressing the County's Poverty Issue?

#### Homeless Shelters:

One of the primary areas of focus is the homeless shelter. There is a need for men's shelters. Due to the pandemic, the previous men's shelter closed, and while there were efforts to create a temporary solution at a church, it was not permanent. Funding for this initiative came from ARPA, but the funds were limited,

## **Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment**

### **MODULE 6: What are the residents of the community(ies) saying?**

#### *Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families Community*

and the shelter had to close by April 2023. Efforts to secure a permanent location are ongoing, but challenges like city zoning ordinances are a hindrance.

#### Reactive vs. Proactive Approach:

Community members perceive that their efforts to address poverty are often reactive rather than proactive. Programs available are more about immediate needs like bill payments, furnace replacements, or weatherization, not empowerment and long-term upliftment.

#### Lack of Vision:

There is a perceived lack of vision from leadership, focusing on reactionary measures. This strong sentiment suggests no concrete plan is in place to combat poverty comprehensively.

#### Economic Cynicism:

Some community members feel that there is a motive to keep a segment of the population impoverished as it offers a source of cheap labor.

#### Child Care:

More access to affordable, quality child care must be developed. While some pilot programs have addressed this, few genuinely uplift individuals out of their circumstances.

#### Mental Health & Children's Services:

These areas are acknowledged as crucial but are underfunded. The current funding model is more reactionary than proactive, and preventive programs, especially for children, are limited.

#### Community Collaboration:

The human services sector works well in coordination, but they face challenges when interacting with governmental entities or the business community, especially regarding funding allocations and setting priorities.

#### Changing Leadership & Relationships:

Historically, the county has seen good collaboration among local agencies. However, changing leadership and some shifting to virtual operations had an impact on relationships with significant community partners.

#### Transportation:

Port Huron is a hub for services and residents, but transportation links to other parts of the county must be improved, a barrier for those living outside of Port Huron. However, winter and road conditions are not perceived as significant hindrances, as residents are accustomed to them.

#### Automotive Dependency:

Given Michigan's historical leanings towards the automotive industry, the state has always promoted independent car ownership, possibly at the expense of developing broader public transportation options.



**Analysis:** From this feedback, it is evident that while there are pockets of efforts and programs to address poverty, there is a consensus that these must be adequately proactive and holistic. There is a call for more visionary leadership, better collaboration with government and business entities, and a need to address foundational issues like transportation and child care to impact poverty significantly.

**The final discussion revolved around trust in institutions by people living in poverty.**

Dr. Martinez started by asking which institution (social services, human services, churches, government, and business) is most trusted by impoverished people. Responses indicated a general lack of trust in all institutions, with a potential slight exception for churches.

- **DHHS Mistrust:** There was a mention of long-standing mistrust towards the Department of Health and Human Services, particularly relating to child protective services and foster care.
- **Asking for Help Late:** Due to the lack of trust or previous bad experiences, people only seek help once it is almost too late, making it challenging to achieve successful outcomes.
- **Dependency on Services:** The county's array of services and financial assistance might inadvertently foster dependence instead of independence.
- **Community Building:** A positive example of community trust was the Warming Center, which could house a few individuals out of the many who sought shelter there. This facility, associated with a church, built significant trust with those who frequented it.
- **Reaching Out to Homeless:** A participant discusses a potential miscommunication or misunderstanding about providing housing to homeless individuals in neighborhoods.

**Overall Analysis:** The discussion provided insights into the complexities surrounding trust in institutions among impoverished people. While there is a pervasive sense of mistrust, there are also pockets of success stories and a keen awareness of the challenges.

## CONSULTANT OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion of the Community Assessment for Blue Water Community Action (**BWCA**) in St. Clair County, Michigan, integrates insights from quantitative data, surveys, and a focus group with community leaders. This assessment highlights key challenges and outlines strategic priorities for addressing poverty in the county. The ensuing conclusions are intended to guide BWCA in its mission to empower the community toward economic self-sufficiency and prosperity.

### **Evaluation of Findings and Interpretations of Data:**

- Quantitative data shows a significant focus on early childhood education, financial literacy, and housing assistance, with targeted services for low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.
- Qualitative data, especially from the survey, emphasizes high utility costs, low wages, and housing affordability as critical concerns among community members.
- The focus group's feedback enriches the data analysis, highlighting structural, social, and infrastructural challenges, including employment type, wage levels, education accessibility, generational poverty, and the dynamics of the rural-agricultural landscape.
- These insights suggest a need for a multifaceted and proactive approach that addresses both immediate needs and underlying structural issues.

### **Identification of Poverty Causes and Conditions:**

- The primary causes of poverty in St. Clair County include high housing costs, inadequate wages, and limited employment opportunities in high-paying sectors.
- Additional factors contributing to poverty are low educational attainment (only 19.4 percent of the adult population holds a bachelor's degree) and a relatively high percentage of families, particularly single female households, living below the poverty line.
- Adding to the identified causes of poverty, the focus group emphasized the complexity of issues such as young, unprepared parents, single-parent challenges, and the nuances of the rural-agricultural economy.
- The decline in manufacturing and post-pandemic workforce shortages, especially in the service industry, exacerbated the pay gap and economic challenges.

### **Identification of Trends and Needs:**

- There is a growing need for affordable housing and higher-paying job opportunities.
- Mental health and social support services are crucial, as indicated by the mental health data and the lack of a men's shelter.
- Educational programs, particularly for early childhood, are vital and need continued support and expansion.
- The focus group emphasized a lack of opportunities in education and employment, low professional pay, and infrastructure (especially Wi-Fi access).
- Improving financial literacy is critical as the top two service needs, as per survey respondents, were places to teach people how to make a budget and saving for retirement.

- The need for improved mental health support and education systems to counteract the pandemic's long-term impacts is crucial.

#### **Ranking of Needs:**

1. Economic Opportunities (including job creation in higher-paying industries and wage improvement).
2. Access to Quality Education (focusing on early childhood and financial literacy).
3. Affordable Housing and Homelessness Services.
4. Mental Health and Social Support Services.
5. Assistance for Vulnerable Populations (seniors, children in poverty, and those with disabilities).
6. Infrastructure Improvement (including Wi-Fi and transportation).

#### **Classification of Needs:**

- **Family Needs:** Financial literacy education, affordable housing, accessible higher education for adults, and quality early childhood education access. Enhanced focus on addressing challenges faced by single parents and young families.
- **Agency Needs:** Broadening programs for job training and economic self-sufficiency, shifting from reactive to preventive services, enhancing collaboration with government and business entities, and expanding services to address homelessness (particularly a men's shelter).
- **Community Needs:** The goal is to foster a community environment that is equitable and nurturing for all its residents. Implement wide-reaching initiatives aimed at enhancing pay scales and expanding educational opportunities. Focus on increasing wages, bolstering education, introducing incentives designed to retain the younger demographic, improving access to healthcare, and ensuring these initiatives are inclusive and supportive of all community members, with particular attention to the growing multiracial and Hispanic/Latino populations.

This conclusion synthesizes the findings from both primary and secondary data sources, aligning with the mission of BWCA to empower individuals toward economic self-sufficiency while highlighting the specific challenges and opportunities within St. Clair County. The focus group's feedback underscores the necessity for visionary leadership and comprehensive, collaborative strategies to tackle poverty.

#### **5-Year Strategic Plan Suggestions:**

Mano-y-ola consultants would like to offer the following suggestions for consideration in your 5-year Strategic Plan, annual Community Action Plan, and Head Start Short, Medium, and Long-range Goals. It is important to note that these are recommendations based on our findings and are meant to guide rather than mandate your future strategies:

1. **Economic Development Initiatives:** Consider creating job opportunities in emerging and sustainable industries. It can help address the community's economic disparities and mitigate the brain drain issue.

2. **Expansion of Educational Programs:** Explore partnerships with educational institutions (including online universities) to offer more diverse and industry-aligned courses, enhancing residents' employment prospects.
3. **Infrastructure Improvement Projects:** Prioritize enhancing essential infrastructure, especially internet access and public transportation, to support broader community development.
4. **Housing and Homelessness Solutions:** Develop and implement strategies to provide affordable housing options and address homelessness, potentially including a men's shelter.
5. **Enhanced Mental Health Services:** Strengthen mental health and social support frameworks, focusing on addressing the lingering impacts of the pandemic.

#### **Annual Community Action Plan Recommendations:**

##### **Short-term (Yearly) Objectives:**

- Initiate skill development and job training programs in high-demand sectors.
- Collaborate with educational institutions to enrich learning experiences.
- Begin targeted infrastructure improvement projects.

##### **Medium-term (2-3 Years) Objectives:**

- Assess and refine job training initiatives based on community feedback and job market trends.
- Broaden educational collaborations to include more fields.
- Continue infrastructure enhancements with a focus on sustainable and long-term benefits.

##### **Long-term (4-5 Years) Objectives:**

- Aim to establish BWCA as a key player in community development and economic empowerment.
- Strive for improved educational outcomes and higher employment rates.
- Aim for substantial completion of significant infrastructure projects.

#### **Head Start Goals Recommendations:**

##### **Short-term Goals:**

- Increase Head Start program accessibility, especially for underrepresented groups.
- Enhance the curriculum to support comprehensive child development.

##### **Medium-term Goals:**

- Implement initiatives to involve families in the educational process actively.
- Build partnerships to supplement educational resources and experiences.

**Long-term Goals:**

- Target significant improvements in readiness for schooling among Head Start participants.
- Position the Head Start program as a benchmark for early childhood education.

These suggestions are proposed as flexible guidelines that can be adapted and revised in response to the community's dynamic needs and the evolving socioeconomic environment in St. Clair County. They are intended to support BWCA's mission to foster economic self-sufficiency and community well-being.

## APPENDICES

Appendix A: Parent Community Needs Survey

Appendix B: Focus Group Questions

## Appendices

Please check if applicable:

I am a Head Start parent/guardian. Center Name & Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am a client receiving CSBG Services

☐ I am a client receiving Weatherization Assistance

## Appendix A: Client/Family Needs Survey

The local CBSG/Head Start/Early Head Start Program is interested in your opinion about programs and services for families in the county. Your ideas and experience help us serve families better. This survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. **This survey is confidential**, all answers will be grouped together. We will use this information to understand top problems facing families serviced by the program.

**(2) How serious of a problem do you feel each of the following items is in our county? (Please circle your response.)**

Scale: (1) Not a Problem (2) Somewhat (3) Problem (4) Serious Problem (5) Very Serious Problem

| ITEM RATING |                                                                                            | Circle ONE |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---|---|---|---|
| 1.          | Access to health care                                                                      | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2.          | Availability of affordable housing                                                         | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3.          | Affordable child care before and after school hours                                        | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4.          | Availability of recreation for families (parks, church programs, membership organizations) | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5.          | Quality of public education in our county                                                  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6.          | Availability of adult education (GED, ESL, etc.)                                           | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7.          | Availability of job training                                                               | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8.          | High cost of utilities (heating, electricity, water)                                       | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9.          | Services for children with disabilities                                                    | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10.         | Low wages                                                                                  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11.         | Availability of jobs                                                                       | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12.         | Public safety/crime                                                                        | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13.         | Availability and access to public transportation                                           | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14.         | Incidence of drug and alcohol abuse                                                        | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15.         | Gang activity                                                                              | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 16.         | Child health issues (obesity, exposure to lead, asthma)                                    | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 17.         | Incarceration of parents                                                                   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 18.         | Access to public assistance (WIC, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Work First)                       | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 19.         | Domestic violence                                                                          | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 20.         | Child abuse and neglect                                                                    | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 21.         | Addiction to opioids                                                                       | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 22.         | Availability and access to mental health services                                          | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**(3)** Please mark (X) the top **THREE** reasons you feel are the primary causes of poverty in our county.

| X | Reason                                        | X | Reason                                |
|---|-----------------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
|   | 1. Not enough jobs                            |   | 10. Low social security/SSI payments  |
|   | 2. Wages are too low                          |   | 11. Unemployment benefits are too low |
|   | 3. Lack of job skills                         |   | 12. Housing costs are too high        |
|   | 4. Lack of education/training                 |   | 13. Health care costs are too high    |
|   | 5. Lack of child care                         |   | 14. Utility costs are too high        |
|   | 6. Lack of transportation                     |   | 15. Non-payment of child support      |
|   | 7. People can't work (too old, ill, disabled) |   | 16. Immigration status                |
|   | 8. People don't want to work                  |   | 17. Other (specify)                   |
|   | 9. Lack of public assistance payments         |   |                                       |

**(4)** Has there been a time in the last year when you or someone in your immediate family: **(Mark X to answer: Y / N)**

| Y | N |                                                       | Y | N |                                                                                   |
|---|---|-------------------------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |   | 1. Needed to see a dentist but couldn't afford to?    |   |   | 9. Could not pay mortgage or taxes?                                               |
|   |   | 2. Needed to see a doctor but couldn't afford to?     |   |   | 10. Been evicted?                                                                 |
|   |   | 3. Needed to buy medicine but couldn't afford to?     |   |   | 11. Had home condemned?                                                           |
|   |   | 4. Needed food but couldn't afford to buy it?         |   |   | 12. Looked for work but could not get a job?                                      |
|   |   | 5. Went hungry?                                       |   |   | 13. Lost a job?                                                                   |
|   |   | 6. Could not pay the rent?                            |   |   | 14. Could not pay for the cost of vehicle repairs                                 |
|   |   | 7. Had utilities turned off? (Couldn't pay)           |   |   | 15. could not pay for gas                                                         |
|   |   | 8. Had utilities turned off? (Landlord failed to pay) |   |   | 16. Needed assistance but did not receive it?<br>If yes, what type of assistance: |

**(5) Please indicate the level of difficulty your family is currently experiencing as a result of COVID-19 in the following areas:**

|                                                                                                   | Very Difficult | Difficult | Neutral | Easy | Does not apply |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------|------|----------------|
| <b>Health Conditions</b> <i>(ability to access services)</i>                                      |                |           |         |      |                |
| <b>Economic Conditions</b> <i>(ability to purchase essential goods such as clothing and food)</i> |                |           |         |      |                |
| <b>Education of children</b> <i>(ability to access resources)</i>                                 |                |           |         |      |                |
| <b>Technology</b> <i>(ability to access technology and use technological platforms)</i>           |                |           |         |      |                |
| <b>Work Conditions</b> <i>(ability to keep a job (part time or full time)</i>                     |                |           |         |      |                |
| <b>Testing</b> <i>(ability to access COVID-19 tests when needed)</i>                              |                |           |         |      |                |
| <b>Vaccination</b> <i>(ability to access COVID-19 vaccines)</i>                                   |                |           |         |      |                |

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### Appendices

(6) Besides Blue Water Community Action, list the top 2 service agencies that you or your neighbors use the most:

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

(7) What are the 2 or 3 most important things that you believe will improve your household's quality of life?

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

| 8. During the week, what hours do you/are you in?<br>(Mark with an X): |      |        |                      | 9. Do you have access to and/or need the following services?<br>(Mark with an X in each box if the answer is yes) | Access | Need |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|
|                                                                        | Work | School | Job-Related Training |                                                                                                                   |        |      |
| 5 - 6 am                                                               |      |        |                      | Check cashing services                                                                                            |        |      |
| 6 - 7 am                                                               |      |        |                      | Classes to get a better job                                                                                       |        |      |
| 7 - 8 am                                                               |      |        |                      | Credit counseling and credit repair                                                                               |        |      |
| 8 - 9 am                                                               |      |        |                      | Driver's license                                                                                                  |        |      |
| 9 - 10 am                                                              |      |        |                      | English as a Second Language (ESL) services                                                                       |        |      |
| 10 - 11 am                                                             |      |        |                      | GED/Adult High School services                                                                                    |        |      |
| 11 - 12 pm                                                             |      |        |                      | Job training at community colleges                                                                                |        |      |
| 12 - 1 pm                                                              |      |        |                      | Legal Aid                                                                                                         |        |      |
| 1 - 2 pm                                                               |      |        |                      | Places that teach about saving for retirement                                                                     |        |      |
| 2 - 3 pm                                                               |      |        |                      | Places that teach people how to make a budget and save money                                                      |        |      |
| 3 - 4 pm                                                               |      |        |                      | Shelter                                                                                                           |        |      |
| 4 - 5 pm                                                               |      |        |                      | First time car buyer program                                                                                      |        |      |
| 5 - 6 pm                                                               |      |        |                      | Law enforcement                                                                                                   |        |      |
| 6 - 7 pm                                                               |      |        |                      |                                                                                                                   | Yes    | No   |
| 7 - 8 pm                                                               |      |        |                      | 10. Do you have a bank/credit union account (checking or savings)?                                                |        |      |
| 8 - 9 pm                                                               |      |        |                      | 11. Do you have a computer at home?                                                                               |        |      |
| Other:                                                                 |      |        |                      | 12. Do you have an Internet connection at home?                                                                   |        |      |
|                                                                        |      |        |                      | 13. Do you have a mobile phone with text capability?                                                              |        |      |

|                                                                          |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 14. Would you recommend BWCA Programs to other families? (Please circle) | Yes / No |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|

|                                                                                                                                                                                                              |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 15. Do you currently know families with children ages 0-5 eligible for HS/EHS that you would recommend?<br><i>If yes, please let us know where those families live and where the program should recruit:</i> | Yes / No |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|

|                                            |                        |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 16. Ethnicity/Race: (Check all that apply) |                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Asian/Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Black                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Native American        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | White                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Hispanic               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Other                  |

|                                                                    |                             |                          |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 17. What is your current employment status? (Check all that apply) |                             |                          |                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                           | Employed full time          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Retired                |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                           | Unemployed/not working      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Full-time homemaker    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                           | Employed part time/seasonal | <input type="checkbox"/> | In job training/school |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                           | Disabled                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other:                 |

|                                                                                        |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 18. Are you a grandparent caring for your grandchild or grandchildren? (Please circle) | Yes / No |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|

|                                                                                                 |                                |                          |                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 19. If yes, as a grandparent, what are the greatest concerns you have in raising grandchildren? |                                |                          |                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                        | Finances                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grandchild's physical health  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                        | Legal issues                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grandchild's emotional health |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                        | Your physical health           | Other:                   |                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                        | Emotional support for yourself |                          |                               |

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| 20. County of Residency: |
|--------------------------|

Thank you for completing this survey!



Appendix B: Focus Group Questions

**Question 1:** What factors contribute most significantly to poverty in your community, county, or area?

**Question 2:** What are the top priorities that could influence the economic stability of families in your county over the next four years?

**Question 3:** How do most individuals in your county generate income for themselves?

**Question 4:** How are the Local Leaders and Service Providers Addressing the County's Poverty Issue?

**Question 5:** Which institutions (social services, human services, churches, government, and business) are most trusted by people living in poverty?

# Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

## End Notes

## END NOTES

- <sup>i</sup> U.S. Census, *American Community Survey*. [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/)
- <sup>ii</sup> U.S. Climate Data, *Annual Averages*. <https://www.usclimatedata.com/>
- <sup>iii</sup> US. Department of Health and Human Services – Administration of Children and Families, *Head Start ECLKC*. <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/data-ongoing-monitoring/article/program-information-report-pir>.
- <sup>iv</sup> U.S. Census, *Improvements to the 2020 Census Race and Hispanic Origin Questions Designs, Data Processing, and Coding Procedures*. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2021/08/improvements-to-2020-census-race-hispanic-origin-question-designs.html>
- <sup>v</sup> U.S. Census, *2020 Census Illuminates Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Country*. <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/improved-race-ethnicity-measures-reveal-united-states-population-much-more-multiracial.html>
- <sup>vi</sup> Refugee Processing Center, *Refugee Admissions Report as of January 31, 2023*. <https://www.wrapsnet.org/admissions-and-arrivals/>
- <sup>vii</sup> Migration Policy Institute, *U.S. Annual Refugee Resettlement Ceilings and Number of Refugees Admitted, 1980-Present*. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/us-refugee-resettlement>
- <sup>viii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>ix</sup> The White House, *Fact Sheet: President Biden Sends Immigration Bill to Congress as Part of His Commitment to Modernize our Immigration System*. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/20/fact-sheet-president-biden-sends-immigration-bill-to-congress-as-part-of-his-commitment-to-modernize-our-immigration-system/>
- <sup>x</sup> The White House, *Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Border Enforcement Actions*. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/01/05/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-border-enforcement-actions/>
- <sup>xi</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xiii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Al Jazeera, *‘We’re Going to America’: Border Hope and Fear as Title 42 Ends*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2023/5/14/title-42-ends-asylum-rules-change-at-tijuana-san-diego-border#:~:text=Since%20it%20was%20put%20in,Thursday%2C%20May%2011%2C%202023>.
- <sup>xv</sup> PBS News Hour, *How New Biden Asylum Rule Affects Immigration, Compares to Trump*. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/how-new-biden-asylum-rule-affects-immigration-compares-to-trump#:~:text=What's%20the%20new%20rule%20and,a%20country%20they%20passed%20through>.
- <sup>xvi</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xvii</sup> PBS News Hour, *Biden Administration to Limit Asylum to Migrants Who Pass Through a 3rd Nation*. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/biden-administration-to-limit-asylum-to-migrants-who-pass-through-a-3rd-nation>
- <sup>xviii</sup> Reuters, *Biden Administration Unveils Broad Asylum Restrictions at U.S.-Mexico Border*. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-roll-out-new-asylum-restrictions-us-mexico-border-sources-2023-02-21/>
- <sup>xix</sup> Refugee Processing Center, *Refugee Arrivals by State and Nationality Fiscal Year 2023*. <https://www.wrapsnet.org/>
- <sup>xx</sup> Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI), *The American Religious Landscape in 2020*. <https://www.prri.org/research/2020-census-of-american-religion/>
- <sup>xxi</sup> University of Michigan, *Mother’s Education Significant to Children’s Success*. <https://news.umich.edu/mothers-education-significant-to-children-s-academic-success/>
- <sup>xxii</sup> 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates, *Educational Attainment of Mothers*. <https://www.census.gov/>
- <sup>xxiii</sup> MI School Data, *District FTE Pupil Counts*. <https://www.mischooldata.org/>
- <sup>xxiv</sup> MI School Data, *Special Education – English Language Learners*. <https://www.mischooldata.org/>
- <sup>xxv</sup> MI School Data, *Economically Disadvantaged Counts*. <https://www.mischooldata.org/>
- <sup>xxvi</sup> MI School Data, *Michigan Cohort Graduation and Dropout Reports*. <https://www.mischooldata.org/>
- <sup>xxvii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xxviii</sup> Mission Square Research Institute, *Center for State and Local Government Excellence*. <https://www.slge.org/>
- <sup>xxix</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Average Weekly Wages*. <https://data.bls.gov/>
- <sup>xxx</sup> FDIC Economic Inclusion, *Results from the 2011 FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households*. <https://economicinclusionq.fdic.gov/surveys/2011household/documents-508/appendix/2011-HH-Use-of-NonBank-MO-and-Other-AFS-Last-Yr.pdf>
- <sup>xxxi</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xxxii</sup> United for Alice, *2020 ALICE Report*. <https://www.unitedforalice.org/state-reports>
- <sup>xxxiii</sup> Economic Policy Institute, *Family Budget Calculator*. <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>
- <sup>xxxiv</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xxxv</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Services, *Family Independence Program Recipients*. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs>
- <sup>xxxvi</sup> Social Security, *SSI Recipients by State and County*. [https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi\\_sc/](https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_sc/)
- <sup>xxxvii</sup> Internal Revenue Service, *Earned Income Tax Credit*. <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-eitc>
- <sup>xxxviii</sup> Internal Revenue Service, *Statistics for Tax Returns with EITC*. <https://www.eitc.irs.gov/eitc-central/statistics-for-tax-returns-with-eitc/statistics-for-tax-returns-with-eitc>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment End Notes

- xxxix National Conference of State Legislatures, *Earned Income Tax Credit Overview*. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/earned-income-tax-credits-for-working-families.aspx>
- xl The National Center for Children in Poverty, *Federal Poverty Guidelines*. <http://nccp.org/>
- xli Ibid.
- xlii World Bank, *Poverty*. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty>
- xliii American Enterprise Institute, *Reexamining the Data on Extreme Poverty*. <https://www.aei.org/events/reexamining-the-data-on-extreme-poverty/>
- xliv Reuters, *US Congress Averts Historic Default, Approves Debt-Limit Suspension*. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-senate-aims-quick-passage-debt-ceiling-bill-avoid-default-2023-06-01/>
- xlv Reuters, *Moderate U.S. Economic Growth Expected in Second Quarter*. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/moderate-us-economic-growth-expected-second-quarter-2023-07-27/>
- xlvi CNN Politics, *US Averts Government Shutdown*. <https://www.cnn.com/politics/live-news/government-shutdown-deadline-09-30-23/index.html>
- xlvi Ibid.
- xlvi The New York Times: The Daily, *The Economy is on an Upswing. Should Biden Get Credit for It?* <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/07/podcasts/biden-economy-inflation-recession.html>
- xlvi Ibid.
- i Economic Report of the President, *Investing in Young Children's Care and Education*. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ERP-2023.pdf>
- ii Ibid.
- iii Ibid.
- iiii Michigan Economic Development Corporation, *Michigan Awards and Rankings*. <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/rankings/>
- liv Michigan Economic Development Corporation, *This Just In: CNBC Ranks Michigan a Top 10 State for Business*. <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/press-releases/2023/07/cnbc-top-10/>
- lv University of Michigan Economics, *Michigan Forecast*. <https://lsa.umich.edu/econ/rsqe/forecasts/michigan-forecast.html>
- lvi St. Clair County, Michigan Economic Development Alliance, *Mobility and Automotive*. <https://edascc.com/?/doing-business-here/target-industries#section-1-1>
- lvii University of Michigan Economics, *Michigan Forecast*. <https://lsa.umich.edu/econ/rsqe/forecasts/michigan-forecast.html>
- lviii Ibid.
- lix MI New Economy, *Executive Summary*. <https://www.michigan.gov/mineweconomy/executive-summary>
- lx Epicenter Mt. Pleasant, *Gratiot-Isabella RESD First in Region to Split Employee Child Care Costs Through New State Program*. <https://www.secondwavemedia.com/epicenter/features/MI-Tri-Share-Child-Care.aspx>
- lxi MI New Economy Plan Presentation, *Grow the Middle Class*. <https://www.michigan.gov/mineweconomy/-/media/Project/Websites/MI-New-Economy/MI-New-Economy-Comprehensive-Presentation-Long.pdf>
- lxii U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics Map*. <https://www.bls.gov/>
- lxiii U.S. Census Bureau, *Quick Facts*. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/stclaircountymichigan,MI,US/PST045222>
- lxiv U.S. News: A World Report, *St. Clair County, Michigan*. <https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/michigan/st-clair-county>
- lxv Ibid.
- lxvi Michigan Venture Capital Association, *Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County (Port Huron SmartZone)*. <https://michiganvca.org/investor/economic-development-alliance-of-st-clair-county-port-huron-smartzone/>
- lxvii St. Clair County, Michigan Economic Development Alliance, *Target Industries*. <https://edascc.com/>
- lxviii Ibid.
- lxix Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County, *Major Employers*. <https://edascc.com/doing-business-here/major-employers/>
- lxx National Low-Income Housing Coalition, *Gap Report*. <https://reports.nlihc.org/gap>
- lxxi Ibid.
- lxxii National Low Income Housing Coalition, *Out of Reach*. <https://reports.nlihc.org/orr>
- lxxiii Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, *Low-Income Community Energy Solutions*. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/slsc/low-income-community-energy-solutions>
- lxxiv New America, *The Current State of Eviction Data*. <https://www.newamerica.org/future-land-housing/reports/why-is-eviction-data-bad/the-current-state-of-eviction-data/>
- lxxv Advisor Smith, *States Where Renters are at Highest Risk of Eviction*. <https://advisorsmith.com/data/states-where-renters-are-at-highest-risk-of-eviction/>
- lxxvi Foreclosures, *Foreclosure Locations*. <https://www.foreclosure.com/>
- lxxvii Foreclosures, *Michigan Bankruptcy Homes*. <https://www.foreclosure.com/michigan/bankruptcyhomes/>
- lxxviii U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD Programs Datasets*. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsgh.html>
- lxxix U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD Exchange*. <https://www.hudexchange.info/>
- lxxx Ibid.
- lxxxi ED Data Express, *Homeless Students*. <https://eddataexpress.ed.gov/>
- lxxxii Gallup, *In U.S., Library Visits Outpaced Trips to Movies in 2019*. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/284009/library-visits-outpaced-trips-movies-2019.aspx>
- lxxxiii Brookings, *Public Libraries Continue to Adapt, Enriching Communities Across America*. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2021/06/01/public-libraries-continue-to-adapt-enriching-communities-across-america/>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### End Notes

- <sup>lxxxiv</sup> American Library Association, *State of America's Libraries Report 2020: A Report from the American Library Association*. Steve Zalusky, ed. 2020. <https://www.ala.org/news/sites/ala.org.news/files/content/State-of-Americas-Libraries-2020-web.pdf>
- <sup>lxxxv</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>lxxxvi</sup> St. Clair County Library System. *Locations and Services*. <https://stclaircountylibrary.org>
- <sup>lxxxvii</sup> Center for Parent Information and Resources, *Categories of Disabilities Under Part B of IDEA*. <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/categories>
- <sup>lxxxviii</sup> U.S. Department of Education, *IDEA Section 618 Data Products: Static Tables*. <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/osepidea/618-data/static-tables/index.html>
- <sup>lxxxix</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency, *Safe Drinking Water Information System*. [https://sdwis.epa.gov/ords/sfdw\\_pub/f?p=108:200](https://sdwis.epa.gov/ords/sfdw_pub/f?p=108:200)
- <sup>xc</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency, *Wildfire Smoke and Your Patients' Health: The Air Quality Index*. <https://www.epa.gov/wildfire-smoke-course/wildfire-smoke-and-your-patients-health-air-quality-index>
- <sup>xci</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Services, *Medicaid Eligibility Cases and Recipients*. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs>
- <sup>xcii</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Services, *Healthy Michigan Program*. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs>
- <sup>xciii</sup> Health Resources and Services Administration, *What is a Shortage Designation?* <https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/workforce-shortage-areas/shortage-designation>
- <sup>xciv</sup> Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), *Shortage Areas*. <https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/shortage-areas>
- <sup>xcv</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *CDC Child Vaccine Trend Report*. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/childvaxview/interactive-reports/index.html>
- <sup>xcvi</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Service, *County Immunization Report Cards*. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/childrenfamilies/immunization/localhealthdepartment/county-immunization-report-card>
- <sup>xcvii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xcviii</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, *Asthma Dashboard*. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/communicablediseases/epidemiology/chronicepi/asthma-epidemiology/mi-asthma-dashboard-medicaid-persistent-asthma>
- <sup>xcix</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Oral Health*. <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth>
- <sup>c</sup> Trust for American Health, *State of Obesity 2023*. <https://www.tfah.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TFAH-2023-ObesityReport-FINAL.pdf>
- <sup>ci</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>cii</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Service, *Teen Births and Fertility Rates*. <https://vitalstats.michigan.gov/osr/Chi/births14/frameBxChar.html>
- <sup>ciii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>civ</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Service, *Low Birthweight Babies, Kessner Index*. <https://vitalstats.michigan.gov/osr/chi/Births14/BxTablesADA/IndicatorObject.asp?Char=208&Row=KESSNER&Col=RACE&Stat=NxP&Average=A&TableType=G&RowGroup=PNC&COLGROUP=RACE FIXED&JS=NO&AreaCode=0&AreaType=S&ActiveYear=2021#:~:text=Kessner%20Index%3A%20The%20K>
- <sup>cv</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>cvi</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, *Infant Mortality*. <https://vitalstats.michigan.gov/osr/index.asp?Id=3>
- <sup>cvi</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Services, *Food Assistance Program Recipients*. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs>
- <sup>cvi</sup> USDA WIC Program, *WIC Data Tables*. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic>
- <sup>cix</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, *Infants and Children Receiving Benefits from WIC*. <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data?location=MI#MI>
- <sup>cx</sup> MI School Data, *Economically Disadvantaged Counts – Free and Reduced Lunch*. <https://www.mischooldata.org/>
- <sup>cx</sup> Feeding America, *Map the Meal Gap*. <http://feedingamerica.org/>
- <sup>cxii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>cxiii</sup> Economic Research Service, USDA. *Definitions: Food Access*. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/documentation/#lowaccess>
- <sup>cxiv</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>cxv</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>cxvi</sup> CDC Wonder, *Leading Causes of Death*. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>
- <sup>cxvii</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, *Reported Child Abuse Cases*. <https://datacenter.aecf.org/>
- <sup>cxviii</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, *Number of Young People in State Custody*. <https://datacenter.aecf.org/>
- <sup>cxix</sup> Federal Register, *Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program*. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/09/30/2016-22986/child-care-and-development-fund-ccdf-program>
- <sup>cxix</sup> Childcare Aware, *Price of Care: 2021 Child Care Affordability*. <https://www.childcareaware.org/catalyzing-growth-using-data-to-change-child-care/#ChildCareAffordability>
- <sup>cxxi</sup> The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), *The State of Preschool 2022*. [https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/YB2022\\_ExecutiveSummary.pdf](https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/YB2022_ExecutiveSummary.pdf)
- <sup>cxix</sup> Michigan Department of Education, *MI School Data*. <https://www.mischooldata.org/early-childhood-program-participation/>
- <sup>cxix</sup> Child Care Aware, *Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) & Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Overview*. <https://www.childcareaware.org/our-issues/public-policy/child-care-and-development-block-grant-ccdbg/ccdbg-overview/>
- <sup>cxix</sup> Center for American Progress, *Early Learning in the United States, 2021*. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/early-learning-in-the-united-states-2021/>
- <sup>cxix</sup> Center for American Progress, *The Build Back Better Act Substantially Expands Child Care Assistance*. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-build-back-better-act-substantially-expands-child-care-assistance/>

## Blue Water Community Action: 2023 Community Assessment

### End Notes

---

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, *Green Book*. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/reports-stats/green-book>

<sup>xxxvii</sup> United States Census, *Glossary*. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html>