

Basic Needs Dominate DeKalb County 2-1-1 Calls

The unemployment rate is going down. Home sales are going up. Wall Street is headed in a bullish direction. Why, then, are some DeKalb County residents still struggling to make ends meet?



Safe, affordable housing is in short supply, even for those working full-time. DeKalb County

residents earning the **median hourly wage of \$11.85** must work **41 hours a week**, 52 weeks per year, to afford a 2-bedroom fair market rent unit. Those earning **minimum wage must work 66 hours**. (*National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach 2014*)



Utility costs are rising, and wicked winter weather in 2014 made matters worse for DeKalb County residents. Current year data from the *Indiana Housing and Community*

Development Authority show that **579 DeKalb County households** received LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) funds. Those over 150% of federal poverty guidelines didn't qualify for LIHEAP; other community resources were insufficient to meet the increased demand.



A June 2014 USDA report noted that food insecurity has not decreased, despite a reduction in the

unemployment rate. Higher annual inflation and food prices are partly to blame. *Map the Meal Gap 2014* by Feeding America reveals that **13.4% of DeKalb County residents—5,670 people, are food insecure**.

Every day, 2-1-1 talks with people facing these and other circumstances that cause them to reach out for help. From July 2013—June 2014, 2-1-1 responded to **1,235 calls from DeKalb County residents**, who reported **1,692 needs** and received **2,169 referrals** to community resources. An additional **406 searches for DeKalb County resources were conducted online** (www.UnitedWayAllenCounty.org).

Top 5 DeKalb County Needs

1. Utilities - 22%
2. Housing - 21%
3. Financial - 9%
4. Health - 9%
5. Food - 7%

Top 5 DeKalb County Unmet Needs

1. Housing - 30%
2. Utilities - 15%
3. Holiday Assistance - 11%
4. Goods - 8%
5. Health - 8%

10% of needs were recorded as "unmet" by 2-1-1.

Assessments with DeKalb County 2-1-1 callers revealed additional barriers that prompted them to call for help.



Unemployed/Laid-Off - 26%



Illness/Disability - 21%



Uninsured/Underinsured - 8%

Identification is the first step to improvement. Now that you know what kind of help is needed, what can YOU do to make a difference in the DeKalb County community?



Get Help → **2-1-1** ← Give Help