



2023 Community Needs Assessment

Washington Morgan Community Action (WMCAP) conducted a needs assessment from August 2023 – October 2023. The results of surveys are compiled to produce a guide for prioritization of agency efforts. Information was gathered from the United States Census Bureau, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, as well as from other sources; to produce an accurate portrait of the currently existing conditions of poverty in Washington and Morgan Counties, Ohio.

Community partners, including service agencies, faith-based organizations, private sector, public sector, educational institutions, elected officials, as well as staff and board completed surveys and were asked to prioritize the needs for services in the community. Partners were also asked to comment on the existing conditions of poverty and the causes of those conditions. The most prominent answers related to the continually struggling economy, lack of transportation and lack of living wage jobs available in southeastern Ohio as well as generational poverty.

The client survey, in addition to identifying the needs of WMCAP's client base, provides some insight into the population that WMCAP serves. Of the clients surveyed: 31% were single, 17% were married with children, 22% were single with children, 14% were married and 15% were widows/widowers. 25% were employed, 12% were unemployed, 30% were disabled, 22% were retired, 4% were working from home/homemakers and 4% were students. (Some clients noted two options, i.e. retired and disabled).

WMCAP clients are spread out across rural, Appalachian Washington and Morgan counties, with 74% of respondents residing in Washington County and 25% in Morgan County.

WMCAP clients were surveyed and given a list of possible needs, as well as an opportunity to list any other needs, and asked to rate items based on need.

Key Findings – Highest Needs

Who Surveyed: Clients, Staff, Board & Community Partners

Survey Methods: Clients – Hard Copies & survey links distributed to clients
Staff, Board & Partners – Survey Monkey

Results: Highest needs identified in each category

Category	Need	Clients	Client Change	Partners/Staff/Board
Basic	Food	82% identified as a need	10% increase	88% Essential
Basic	Program Eligibility Information	71% identified as a need	1% decrease	55% Essential
Basic	Clothing	55% identified as a need	Stayed the same	50% Essential
Basic	Private/Public Transportation	38% identified as a need	2% increase	70% Essential
Basic	Home Delivered Meals	30% identified as need	11% increase	85% Essential
Legal	Tax Preparation Services	20% identified as a need	3% increase	35% Essential
Legal	Veteran Benefits	7% identified as a need	Stayed the same	59% Essential
Counseling	Mental Health	31% identified as a need	7% increase	87% Essential
Counseling	Family Counseling	19% identified as a need	6% increase	64% Essential
Family	School Supplies	24% identified as need	1% decrease	52% Essential
Family	Healthcare for family	24% identified as need	1% decrease	82% Essential
Family	Childcare	22% identified as need	7% increase	88% Essential
Family	Head Start/Preschool	16% identified as a need	4% increase	79% Essential
Education	Help with College	16% identified as a need	6% decrease	24% Essential
Education	Vocational Training Programs	11% identified as a need	5% decrease	46% Essential
Employment	Help Finding a Job	16% identified as a need	5% decrease	64% Essential
Employment	Help starting own business	17% identified as a need	Stayed the same	18% Essential
Housing	Utility Payments	59% identified as a need	6% decrease	67% Essential
Housing	Weatherization Services	37% identified as a need	10% increase	38% Essential
Housing	Help with Rent Payments	47% identified as a need	10% decrease	62% Essential
Housing	Help with Home Repairs	41% identified as a need	17% increase	50% Essential
Healthcare	Dental Care	41% identified as a need	6% decrease	76% Essential
Healthcare	Transportation to Doctors or Health Related Services	48% identified as a need	2% increase	75% Essential

Key Findings - Summary

Conditions of Poverty

- High Poverty Rates
- Low Median Income
- High Free & Reduced Lunch Eligibility
- Food Insecurity
- High SNAP usage

Causes of Poverty

- Unemployment Rate
- Low Educational Attainment
- High Housing Cost Burden
- Lack of Affordable Housing

Community Input – Causes of Poverty

- Generational Poverty
- Substance Abuse/Domestic Violence
- High Costs of Utilities/Housing/Food
- Low Paying Jobs
- Lack of Transportation/Rural Community

Key Changes from 2020 Assessment

- Need for Food increased substantially. The high costs of groceries have impacted moderate to low-income families. Food Pantries are seeing greater demand for services.
- Need for Home Delivered Meals increased substantially. Seniors, especially those home bound and on fixed-incomes are unable to access affordable nutritious food.
- Mental Health – clients reported an increased need for services.
- Utility/Rent Assistance need decreased overall; these may be related to the influx of housing funds to the communities through COVID funding that enabled households to catch up on arrears and stabilize housing.
- Home Repair and Weatherization services saw an increase from 2020. Price increase in construction materials have impacted moderate to low-income homeowners

Economic & Social

Total Population

This indicator reports total population and the population density. Population density is defined as the number of persons per square mile of land area.

Report Area	Total Population	Total Land Area (Square Miles)	Population Density (Per Square Mile)
Morgan County, OH	13,802	416.42	33
Washington County	59,771	631.97	95
Ohio	11,799,448	40,858.53	289
United States	331,449,281	3,533,018.38	94

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS Survey 2017-2021

Population by Age

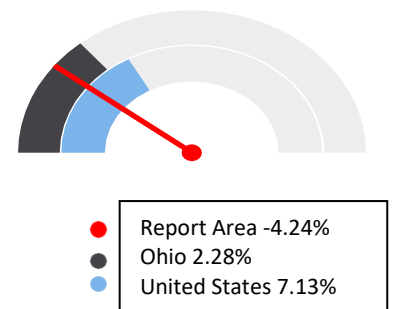
This indicator reports the percentage of age groups in the population of the report area. The reported area of Washington and Morgan Counties indicates an aging population. The number of older adults in the report area is relevant because this population has unique needs which should be considered separately from other age groups.

Report Area	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
Morgan County, OH	5.2%	15.48%	7.06%	10.08%	11.18%	13.01%	15.58%	22.41%
Washington County, OH	4.98%	14.94%	8.73%	10.82%	11.28%	12.34%	15.37%	21.53%
Ohio	5.65%	16.32%	9.34%	12.72%	11.98%	12.21%	13.83%	17.96%
United States	5.55%	16.51%	9.43%	13.53%	12.73%	12.33%	13.1%	16.83%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS Survey 2017-2021

Total Population Change 2010 – 2020

Report Area	Total Population 2010	Total Population 2020	Percent Change 2010-2020
Report Area	76,832	73,573	-4.24%
Morgan County, OH	15,054	13,802	-8.32%
Washington County	61,778	59,771	-3.25%
Ohio	11,536,505	11,799,448	2.28%
United States	312,471,161	334,735,155	7.13%



Income

This indicator reports median household income based on the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates. This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not.

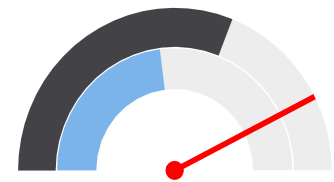
Report Area	Total households	Average Household Income	Median Household Income
Morgan County (MC)	5,629	\$55,853	\$44,848
Washington County (WC)	42,435	\$73,594	\$54,167
Ohio (OH)	4,754,161	\$83,820	\$61,938
United States (US)	124,010,992	\$97,196	\$69,021

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS Survey 2017-2021

Area Deprivation Index

The Area Deprivation Index ranks neighborhoods and communities relative to all neighborhoods across the nation. The ADI is calculated based on 17 measures related to four primary domains (Education; Income & Employment; Housing; and Household Characteristics). The overall scores are measured on a scale of 1 to 100 where 1 indicates the lowest level of deprivation (least disadvantaged) and 100 is the highest level of deprivation (most disadvantaged).

Report Area	Total Population	National Percentile
Morgan County (MC)	13,802	85
Washington County (WC)	59,771	70
Ohio (OH)	11,799,448	62
United States (US)	334,735,155	46

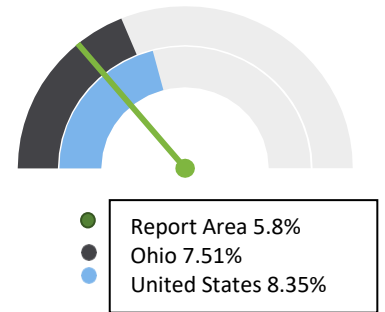


● Report Area 80
 ● Ohio 62
 ● United States 46

Data Source: University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, Neighborhood Atlas. 2020

Households with no motor vehicle

Report Area	Total Households	Percent no motor vehicle
Combined Report Area (C)	30,064	5.8%
Morgan County (MC)	5,629	6.63%
Washington County (WC)	24,435	5.57%
Ohio (OH)	4,754,161	7.51%
United States (US)	124,010,992	8.35%



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-21

Broadband Access

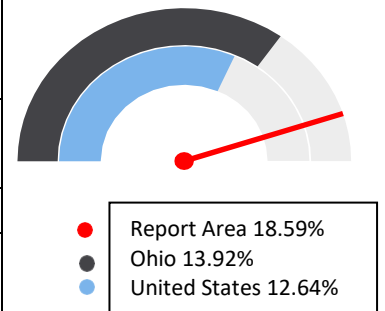
Report Area	Total Number of Broadband Serviceable Locations	Access to DL Speeds >= 25MBPS and UL Speeds >= 3 MBPS
Morgan County, OH	8,160	55.82%
Washington County, OH	30,021	81.64%
Ohio	4,500,626	95.96%
United States	114,537,050	92.73%

Data Source: FCC FABRIC Data.

Disability

This indicator is relevant because disabled individuals comprise a vulnerable population that requires targeted services and outreach by providers.

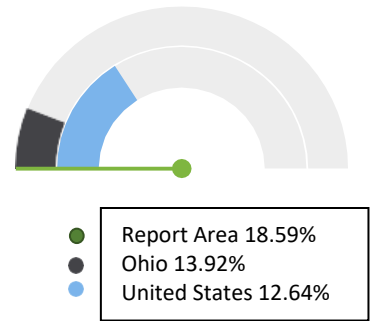
Report Area	Total Population	Population with Disability
Combined Report Area (C)	73,137	18.59%
Morgan County (MC)	13,788	21.19%
Washington County (WC)	59,349	17.99%
Ohio (OH)	11,601,893	13.92%
United States (US)	324,818,565	12.64%



Limited English Proficiency

This indicator reports the percentage of the population aged 5 and older who speak a language other than English at home and speak English less than "very well". This indicator is relevant because an inability to speak English well creates barriers to healthcare access, provider communications, and health literacy/education.

Report Area	Population Age 5+	Population Age 5+ with Limited English Proficiency
Combined Report Area (C)	70,299	.04%
Morgan County (MC)	13,317	.003%
Washington County (WC)	56,982	1.00%
Ohio (OH)	11,080,797	3.00%
United States (US)	310,302,360	8.00%



Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS Survey 2017-2021

Veteran Population

This indicator reports the percentage of the population age 18 and older that served (even for a short time), but is not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or that served in the U.S.

Report Area	Total Population Age 18+	Total Veterans	Veterans, Percent of Total Population
Morgan County	10,992	786	7.15%
Washington County, OH	47,989	4,903	10.22%
Ohio	9,129,159	666,320	7.30%
United States	254,296,179	17,431,290	6.85%

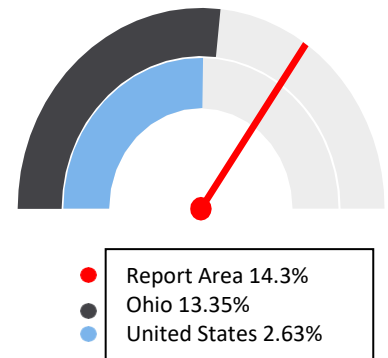
Poverty

According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimate, an average of 14.3% of all persons lived in a state of poverty during the 2017-2021 period. The poverty rate for all living persons in the report area is greater than the national average of 12.63%. Tables below show the report area's poverty percentages are greater than Ohio and the United States as a whole. Overall, our service area shows a greater need for basic services than state and national averages.

Poverty

This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Percent in Poverty
Combined Report Area (C)	71,998	10,302	14.3%
Morgan County (MC)	13,777	2,390	17.35%
Washington County (WC)	58,221	7,912	13.59%
Ohio (OH)	11,451,346	1,528,963	13.35%
United States (US)	321,897,703	40,661,636	12.63%



Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS Survey 2017-2021

Report Area	50% or less of poverty	51-100% of poverty Percent	100-150% of poverty	151-200% of poverty Percent
Morgan County (MC)	6.30%	11.05%	14.01%	10.99%
Washington County (WC)	6.00%	7.59%	9.76%	10.27%
Ohio (OH)	6.09%	7.26%	7.93%	8.60%
United States (US)	5.78%	6.85%	8.11%	8.47%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS Survey 2021

Poverty by Gender

Report Area	Total Male	Total Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Morgan County	1,065	1,326	15.36%	19.36%
Washington County	3,495	4,417	12.02%	15.16%
Ohio	681,016	847,947	12.11%	14.55%
United States	18,132,275	22,529,361	11.44%	13.79%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS Survey 2017-2021

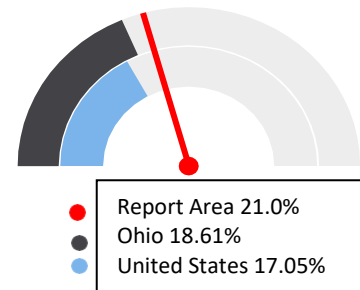
Poverty by Race/Ethnicity

Report Area	White	Black/ African American	Native America/ Alaskan	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Some Other Race	Multiple Race	Hispanic Latino	Not Hispanic /Latino
MC	17.28%	13.56%	25%	0%	No data	16.18%	22.92%	42.64%	17.11%
WC	13.28%	31.09%	32.94%	0%	No data	18.81%	17.02%	19.03%	13.53%
OH	11.10%	29.65%	25.28%	13.19%	32.90%	27.58%	26.06%	24.72%	13.60%
US	11.15%	23.04%	24.86%	10.94%	17.51%	26.53%	16.66%	19.64%	12.05%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS Survey 2017-2021

Child Poverty

Report Area	Ages 0-17	Ages 0-17 Poverty	Ages 0-17 Percent in Poverty
Combined Area (C)	14,564	3,060	21.0%
Morgan County (MC)	2,940	608	20.68%
Washington County (WC)	11,624	2,452	21.09%
Ohio (OH)	2,580,842	480,341	18.61%
United States (US)	72,996,065	12,443,424	17.05%



Senior Poverty

Report Area	Ages 65+	Ages 65+ Poverty	Ages 65+ Percent in Poverty
Combined Area (C)	14,877	1,317	8.8%
Morgan County (MC)	2,860	361	12.6%
Washington County (WC)	12,017	956	8%
Ohio (OH)	2,093,602	309,252	10%
United States (US)	56,421,083	6,176,558	10%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS Survey 2017-2021

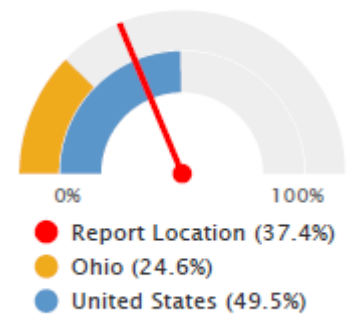
Basic Needs

Free & Reduced Lunch

This indicator reports the percentage of public-school students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. This indicator is relevant because it assesses vulnerable populations which are more likely to have multiple health access, health status, and social support needs.

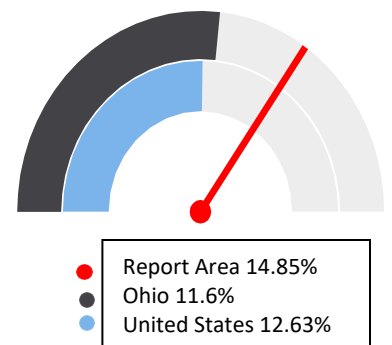
Report Area	Total Students	Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	Percent Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch
Combined Area (C)	9,413	3,516	37.4%
Morgan County (MC)	1,761	No data	No data
Washington County (WC)	7,652	3,516	45.9%
Ohio (OH)	1,694,341	417,644	24.6%
United States (US)	50,744,629	25,124,175	49.5%

Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price School Lunch



Food Insecurity

Report Area	Food Insecure Population	Percent Food Insecure Population
Combined Area (C)	11,086	14.85%
Morgan County (MC)	2,376	16.3%
Washington County (WC)	8,710	14.5%
Ohio (OH)	1,351,090	11.6%
United States (US)	41,133,950	12.63%



Data Source: Feeding America 2020

Food Environment - Food Desert Census Tracts

The USDA Food Access Research Atlas defines a food desert as any neighborhood that lacks healthy food sources due to income level, distance to supermarkets, or vehicle access

Report Area	Total Population (2010)	Food Desert Census Tracts	Other Census Tracts	Food Desert Population	Other Population
Morgan County	15,054	2	2	7,487	7,567
Washington County, OH	61,778	2	14	6,224	55,554
Ohio	11,536,504	421	2,522	1,504,341	10,032,163
United States	308,745,538	9,293	63,238	39,074,974	269,670,564

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



SNAP Households

Report Area	Households Receiving SNAP	Percent Households Receiving SNAP
Morgan County (MC)	2,140	15.5%
Washington County (WC)	7,509	12.60%
Ohio (OH)	1,498,459	12.7%
United States (US)	41,829,366	12.6%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2020

Client Survey

WMCAP clients were surveyed to identify the need for basic necessities including food, clothing, shelter, transportation and program eligibility. The survey revealed three of the top five rated needs to be among the most basic.

“Food” was the highest rated need, with 82% of clients rating the need, a 10% increase from the 2020 assessment. The data tables below highlight the need access to nutrition throughout WMCAP’s service area.

“Assistance with finding out what programs I am eligible for” was the second highest rated need with 71% rating the need, a 1% decrease from the 2020 survey. Clients have noted that they are unsure of resources available and how to determine if they are eligible to receive them.

“Clothing” was ranked third in this category with 55% rating the need which is consistent with the 2020 survey.

“Transportation” was the fourth highest rated need, in this category with 38% rating the need, a 2% increase from 2020.

“Home Delivered Meals” was the fifth highest rated need, in this category with 30% rating the need, a 11% increase from 2020.

When clients were asked to describe their greatest barriers to obtaining assistance with their needs, they noted the lack of transportation as a barrier, income limits for program/benefit eligibility and the need for assistance with determining eligibility for assistance.

Community Input

WMCAP surveyed community partners and staff to gauge their input on the needs facing low-income residents in our communities. 88% of community partners rated the need for **“Access to Food and Clothing”** as Essential. **Summer Feeding Programs** were rated Essential by 80% of community partners. **“Outreach, Referral Services and Determination of Program Eligibility”** was rated 55% Essential. **“Access to Public Transportation”** was rated 70% Essential

Rationale for Agency Basic Services

WMCAP’s community services department provides intake and referral services to a variety of client needs. They refer clients within Agency programming as well as to outside agencies to ensure that clients have access to all available programs. Washington Morgan Community Action has established a working partnership with service agencies in both counties to ensure that clients are receiving access to all community resources.

The Kinship Care program provides non parental custodians guidance on identifying resources to and navigating the governmental systems in order to eliminate barriers.

The Representative Payee Program assures that persons with disabilities have food, clothing and shelter and alleviates homelessness.

The Senior Nutrition Program assures that seniors in both counties are provided a nutritious meal.

The Sustaining Independence for senior's program provides home delivered meals throughout Washington and Morgan Counties.

The Summer Feeding program provides hot lunches to low-income children during the summer months while school is out.

Women Infants and Children (WIC) provides supplemental nutrition for expecting mothers and mothers with children.

The CABL public transit system provides low-cost affordable transportation throughout Washington County.

Legal

Client Survey

WMCAP clients were surveyed to identify the need for assistance with getting identification, registering to vote, obtaining Veteran benefits, applying for social security and preparing taxes. Many low-income individuals and families in Washington and Morgan Counties do not have the resources or knowledge to complete federal and state tax returns in an accurate and complete fashion. This creates a situation in which individuals and families do not fully receive the credits they are eligible for and do not realize the educational opportunities and other benefits that are available to them. Thus, strategies and resources directed at ameliorating economic distress in the bi-county area do not reach the people and goals at which they are aimed.

According to WMCAP's client survey, "**Tax preparation**" was the highest need in the Legal category; with 20% of clients rating as a need. The next highest need under the Legal category identified by client surveys was assistance with **getting identification/driver's license**, with 11% marking it as a need. The third highest need was "**help obtaining Veteran benefits**" with 7% marking it as a need.

Community Input

59% of Community Partners **Veteran Programs for Obtaining Benefits** as Essential. 35% of community partners rated the need for **Free Income Tax Preparation Services** as Essential.

Rationale for Agency Legal Services

WMCAP has a SSVF program that is able to help veteran's obtain assistance with applying for Veteran Benefits. WMCAP has Outreach staff that refers clients to resources for preparing tax returns. If funding becomes available WMCAP will look to provide tax assistance services.

Counseling

A rudiment of achieving and maintaining self-sufficiency for individuals and families is the ability to manage household's wellbeing to effectively meet the most immediate and urgent needs.

Client Survey

Mental Health Treatment was the highest need identified with 31% of survey respondents identifying the need; a 7% increase from the 2020 survey. **Family Counseling and Mentoring Program for Children** was the second highest need with 19% listing it as a need; a 6% increase from 2020.

With the rise of the Opioid Crisis in America, WMCAP surveyed clients asking if **Opioid Addiction Recovery Services** were needed. Of the clients surveyed 9% identified it as a need (4% increase from 2020) and 7% identified **Alcohol/Substance Abuse Treatment** as a need.

Community Partners, Board & Staff

87% of community partners rated the need for "**Access to Mental Health Treatment**" as Essential. The need for "**Access to Opioid Addiction Services**" was rated as 80% Essential and "**Family Counseling**" was 64% Essential

Rationale for Agency Counseling Services

All WMCAP programming refer individuals and families to counseling services available in our communities. Case Management of low-income families in our programs is essential for ensuring that clients are linked to and receive appropriate services to ensure the wellbeing of the household.

Family

Essential to the achievement of full community potential and empowerment are the strengthening and development of families and children, who are among the most vulnerable population. *The State of Poverty in Ohio* notes that children living in poverty are affected by economic, material, social and school deprivation; substandard living conditions and family pressures and responsibilities. Parents living in poverty are affected by the tradeoffs of meeting their own needs and the needs of their children and the stress related to unstable and low-wage employment.

Child School Enrollment Ages 3-4

Report Area	Children Age 3-4	Age 3-4 Enrolled in School	Percent Enrolled in School
Combined Area	1,500	656	43.73%
Morgan	199	43	21.61%
Washington	1,301	613	47.12%
Ohio	279,319	165,802	43.6%
United States	7,692,121	3,590,592	46.7%

Data Source: US Census, ACS Survey 2017-2021

Client Survey

The client survey revealed a great concern for the needs of families. The need for “**Childcare**” was rated as a need by 22% of respondents; 7% increase from 2020. “**HeadStart/Pre-school**” was rated as a need by 16% of survey respondents; 4% increase from 2020. In addition to preschool/childcare; “**School Supplies/Backpacks for Children**” and “**Healthcare for my family**” was both rated a need 24% of survey respondents.

Community Partners, Board & Staff

Head Start and Early Head Start Services for Children was rated Essential by 83% of Community Partners. **School Supply Programs** were rated Essential by 60% of community partners.

Rationale for Family Services

Washington Morgan Community Action is the grantee for both Head Start and Early Head Start in both counties. The Agency also provides Head Start home based services and trains Type B Day Care Providers. Washington Morgan CAP has been able to provide backpacks and school supplies to area children through the help of private foundations and donors.

Education

A lack of an adequate education forms a barrier to sustainability and self-sufficiency, preventing the obtainment of continuous living-wage employment for many individuals.

Education Level

Educational Attainment shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved in the report area, and helps schools and businesses to understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce training or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities.

Report Area	No HS Diploma	HS Only	Some College No Degree	Associates Degree	Bachelors Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Morgan	13%	45.1%	17.6%	11.1%	7.2%	3.8%
Washington	8%	38.7%	20.7%	12.2%	12.1%	7.7%
Ohio	8%	31.9%	19.1%	8.8%	19.4%	12.6%
United States	10%	26.1%	19.1%	8.8%	21.6%	14%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2022

Client Survey

In the Education category, WMCAP clients rated **“College degree”** and **“Obtaining Vocational Training”** as the two highest needs. 16% of clients rated **“College degree”** as a need; 6% decrease from 2020. **“Obtaining Vocation Training”** was rated as a need by 11% of respondents, 5% decrease from 2020.

Community Partners, Board & Staff

Community partners rated **Program to Help Individuals with Vocational Training** as the highest education need with 46% rating it Essential. **Programs to Help with College** was rated second highest with 24% rating it Essential.

Rationale for Agency Education Services

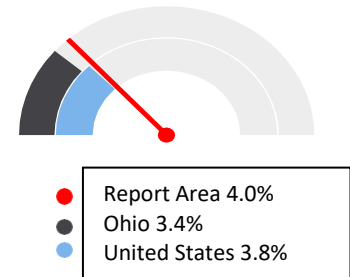
Community Action’s community services department refers customers to Adult Basic Education and WIA as well as directly to career education institutions.

Employment

Current Unemployment

This indicator is relevant because unemployment creates financial instability and barriers to access including insurance coverage, health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

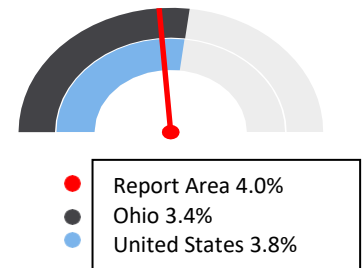
Report Area	Labor Force	# Employed	# Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Combined Area	33,034	32,159	1,325	4.0%
Morgan	6,491	6,690	251	3.6%
Washington	26,543	25,469	1,074	4.0%
Ohio	5,852,679	5,651,661	201,018	3.4%
United States	169,539,172	163,086,649	6,452,524	3.8%



Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, July 2023

Labor Force Participation

Report Area	Total Population Age 16+	Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate
Combined Area	60,885	34,493	56.62%
Morgan	11,376	5,750	50.55%
Washington	49,509	28,743	58.06%
Ohio	9,449,482	5,970,869	63.19%
United States	264,087,642	166,672,597	63.11%



Client Survey

According to the WMCAP client survey, employment is a concern. **“Help starting my own business”** was rated as an overall need with 17%. **“Help Finding a job”** was rated as the second top employment need with 16% responding; 5% decrease from 2020. When clients were asked to describe their greatest barriers to obtaining assistance with their needs, issues noted related to living wage employment and finances.

Community Partners, Board & Staff

Community partners rated employment issues as among the greatest needs in the community.

Assistance with Finding Employment was rated 64% Essential and **Assistance with starting own business** was rated 18% Essential.

Rationale for Agency Employment Programs

Community Action throughout all programming connects participants to local resources for getting assistance with employment issues. Referrals are made to the WIA program and to other programs as they are available. WMCAP recognizes that stable employment is a crucial factor for households to obtain self-sufficiency.

Housing

According to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, the housing stock in rural and Appalachian areas such as Washington and Morgan Counties is lacking of decent, safe, and affordable housing.

Housing Units by Age

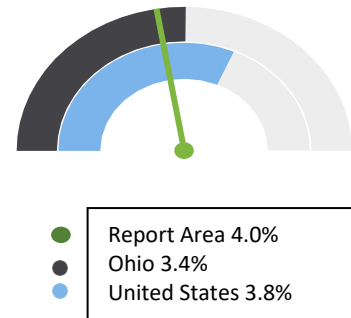
Report Area	Before 1960	1960-1979	1980-1999	2000-2010	After 2010
Morgan	35.99%	22.21%	24.53%	12.63%	4.65%
Washington	34.84%	28.53%	23.43%	8.81%	4.38%

Data Source: US Census, ACS 2017-2021

Substandard Housing

This indicator reports the number and percentage of owner- and renter-occupied housing units having at least one of the following conditions: 1) lacking complete plumbing facilities, 2) lacking complete kitchen facilities, 3) with 1 or more occupants per room, 4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30%, and 5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30%.

Report Area	Occupied Housing Units	Units with one or more condition	% with one or more condition
Combined Area	29,964	6,801	22.69%
Morgan	5,529	1,343	23.86%
Washington	24,435	5,458	22.34%
Ohio	4,754,161	1,196,375	25.16%
United States	124,010,992	39,049,459	31.49%



Data Source: US Census, ACS 2017-202

Housing Cost Burden

This indicator reports the percentage of the households where housing costs are 30% or more of total household income. This indicator provides information on the cost of monthly housing expenses for owners and renters. The information offers a measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs

Housing Costs Burden Owners

Housing Cost Burden Renters

Data Source: US Census, ACS 2017-2021

Report Area	Owners with Mortgage	% Spending more than 30% income on Mortgage
Morgan	1,686	23.25%
Washington	8,564	20.03%
Ohio	1,971,600	20.47%
United States	49,759,315	27.08%

Report Area	Occupied Units Paying Rent	% Spending more than 30% income on Rent
Morgan	1,291	44.62%
Washington	6,321	43.62%
Ohio	1,588,226	40.56%
United States	45,858,831	45.99%

Client Survey

WMCAP clients rated “**Help with utility payments**” and “**Help paying rent**” as the most important needs in the Housing category. “**Help with utility payments**” was indicated as a need by 59% of clients, a 6% decrease from 2020 survey. “**Help paying rent**” was indicated as a need by 47% of clients, a 10% decrease from 2020.

“**Help with Home Repairs**” saw a 17% increase compared to 2020; with 41% reporting it as a need.

“**Help with Weatherization**” saw a 10% increase compared to 2020; with 37% reporting it as a need.

Community Partners, Board & Staff

Community partners **Safe and Affordable Rental Housing, Affordable Housing for Special Needs Population** and **Handicap Accessibility Improvements** as the greatest needs in the Housing category.

Safe and Affordable Rental Housing was rated an Essential by 87% of community partners, and **Affordable Housing for Special Needs Population** was rated 73% Essential and “**Handicap Accessibility Improvements**” rated 61% Essential. “**Energy Assistance**” was rated Essential by 57%. “**Subsidized Rent Programs**” were additionally scored as Essential by 56% of surveyed respondents. **Improved Rental Housing Conditions** was rated 59% Essential

Community partners noted the increase in rental costs and utility costs create a burden on moderate and low-income residents in our communities.

Rationale for Agency Housing Programs

Washington Morgan Community Action offers a multitude of programs aimed at providing residents of Washington and Morgan Counties with safe affordable housing.

Washington Morgan Community Action’s Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program provides rental assistance and utility support low-income households.

The Housing Rehabilitation and Weatherization Programs provide financial and technical assistance in the rehabilitation and weatherization of low-income owner occupied and renter occupied housing.

The Homeless Crisis Response Program provides short term financial assistance and extensive case-management to at-risk and homeless households.

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families program provides short term financial assistance and extensive case-management to at-risk and homeless Veteran households.

The Home Energy Assistance Program provides assistance with the costs of heating and cooling. Electrical Partnership Program provides an energy auditor to review and give advice on lowering electrical usage.

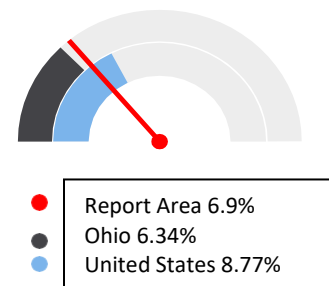
Healthcare

The large number of families and individuals in Washington and Morgan Counties that do not have employer-based insurance leads to many who rely on Medicare and Medicaid and emergency services. This indicator is relevant because lack of insurance is a primary barrier to healthcare access including regular primary care, specialty care, and other health services that contributes to poor economic and health status.

Uninsured Population

This indicator is relevant because lack of insurance is a primary barrier to healthcare access including regular primary care, specialty care, and other health services that contributes to poor health status.

Report Area	Number Insured	Number Uninsured	Percent Uninsured
Combined Area	73,137	5,980	6.90%
Morgan	13,788	952	6.90%
Washington	59,349	4,137	6.97%
Ohio	11,601,983	735,559	6.34%
United States	324,818,565	28,489,142	8.77%



Data Source: US Census Bureau; ACS 2017-2021

Teen Births

Report Area	Female Population 15-19	Teen Births, Rate per 1,000 Females Age 15-19
Morgan	2,816	27.7
Washington	12,748	21.8
Ohio	2,609,197	20.9
United States	72,151,590	19.3

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC - National Vital Statistics System. Accessed via County Health Rankings. 2014-2020. Source geography: County

Client Survey

According to the WMCAP client survey, the need for **“Dental Care”, “Transportation to Doctors Appointments”** are a great in Washington and Morgan Counties. 41% of surveyed clients rated **“Dental Care”** as a need which is a 6% decrease from 2020. Also, 48% of surveyed clients rated **“Transportation to Doctor or Health Related Appointments”** as a need, a 2% increase from 2020. **“Healthcare for my family”** was rated a need with 24% of clients indicating it as a need.

Community Partners, Board & Staff

Access to Mental Health Services was ranked the highest with 93% of Community partners ranking it as Essential. **Access to Alcohol/Substance Abuse Treatment, Access to Health Care Services, Suicide Prevention Services, Transportation to Doctors Appointments, Women Infants and Children, Prenatal Care and Access to Opioid Addiction Services** were also rated Essential.

Rationale for Agency Healthcare Programs

Washington Morgan Community Action operates the Woman, Infants and Children’s (WIC) program that supports nutrition and good health.

The Head Start program provides extensive health screening and an essential part of its program. They also provide a nutritious meal at each center. The Senior Nutrition Program assures that seniors in both counties are provided a nutritious meal.

The SSG Fox SPG program provides case management and resource connection for Veterans throughout Southeastern Ohio who are at risk for suicide.

Tables on the next two pages include the needs identified from this survey and how WMCAP is addressing those needs through programming.

Need Category	Client Rating	Need Identified in Needs Assessment	Current Resources Available to meet need	Justification
Basic	Highest Rating	Food	Senior Congregate Meals Senior Home Delivered Meals WIC Representative Payee Sustaining Independence for Seniors Summer Feeding	Low cost meals Low cost meals Nutrition for eligible families Vouchers for food purchases Home Delivered Meals Free lunches for children
Basic	Most common additional need noted by clients	Transportation	Public/Private Transportation	Public CABL transit system Private van services
Basic	2 nd Highest Need	Program Eligibility Information/Outreach/Referral	Kinship Navigator Case Management	Resource/referral program for caregivers Across Multiple Programs
Basic	3 rd Highest Need	Clothing	Representative Payee	Clothing Vouchers
Legal	Highest Rating	Tax Preparation Veteran Benefits	OBB SSVF	Referral to tax preparation services Referral/Case Management
Counseling	Highest Rating	Mental Health Treatment Family Counseling Opioid Addiction Services	Referrals	Case Management across multiple programs

Family	Highest Rating By Partners	HeadStart/Early HeadStart	Head Start Early Head Start	Essential services for pre kindergarten eligible families
Education	Highest Need	Help finding educational opportunities	Employment & Training	Linkage to educational programs and training
Employment	Highest Need	Employment/Work Experience	Employment & Training	Job search training, skill upgrades, placed employment
Housing	Highest Need	Help with Utility Payments/Usage	HEAP/LIHEP EPP	Utility payments Usage determinations/ appliance upgrades
Housing	2nd Highest Rating	Rental Housing Assistance	HUD Section 8 HCV HCRP/SSVF	Monthly rental assistance Housing Placement, Financial Assistance, Case Management
Housing	3rd Highest Need	Housing Rehabilitation/Weatherization	HWAP CHIP/HTF/HPG	Weatherization services Owner Occupied Rehabilitation
Healthcare	Highest Need	Dental Care	HeadStart/Early HeadStart	Provides extensive health care screenings and nutritious meals at each center.
Healthcare	2 nd Highest Need	Transportation to Doctor and Health Related Appointments	Public/Private Transportation	Public CABL Private Vans