COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT AT A GLANCE

United Way of Denton County, Inc.
UnitedWayDenton.org
A lack of financial means affects local families in many ways that often cross into homelessness, mental health, and other factors which contribute to an acute crisis.

Third grade reading scores are predictive of both graduation and incarceration rates. Both locally and statewide, the proportion of third-graders reading at grade-level is falling.

Female head of household families with children under the age of 18 had the highest poverty rates, at least twice that of all other family types.

More than 80% of women and children experiencing homelessness have been victims of domestic abuse.

To view the entire Community Needs Assessment visit UnitedWayDenton.org/Needs
Homelessness is hounded by myths, including the assumption that all who experience homelessness are unemployed. In fact, half the people experiencing homelessness in Denton County work in some capacity. 

Our community’s latest Point-in-Time count found that on any given day an estimated 200-plus people experience homelessness in Denton County. The data isn’t perfect, which is why United Way of Denton County is spearheading efforts to improve our data collection.

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**Veterans**

2,073 Veterans live in poverty

41K Veterans in Denton County

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**Veteran Status by Major Conflict**

World War II: 4.3%
Korean War: 7.9%
Vietnam: 34.8%
Desert Shield/Desert Storm: 23.5%
OIF/War on Terror: 20.4%

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**Causes of Homelessness**

- Unemployment
- Transportation
- Unable to make rent
- Job skills and opportunities
- Untreated behavioral health issues
- Case management
- Lack of family support
- Food and clothing

**Needs of Homelessness**

- Unemployment – 18.4%
- Transportation – 92
- Unable to make rent – 25.3%
- Job skills and opportunities – 126
- Untreated behavioral health issues – 281
- Case management – 56.3%
- Lack of family support – 7 - 68
- Food and clothing – 126

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**Homelessness in Denton County**

In a year approximately 1,200 people experience homelessness in Denton County. The data isn’t perfect, which is why United Way of Denton County is spearheading efforts to improve our data collection.

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**Veterans**

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Denton County is one of the fastest growing communities in the nation. An Oxford Economics study ranked Denton County as the top growing county in the nation for 2017-2021. By 2050, the US Census Bureau projects that Denton County will more than triple in size with more than 3 million people living within our county, far surpassing both present-day Dallas and Fort Worth. With such exciting growth comes not only great opportunity, but great challenge as the needs of our community grow as well.

An estimated 131,767 Denton County residents will experience mental illness in a single year. Mental illness and behavioral health issues are both a cause and a symptom of experiencing homelessness.

"County jail has become the #1 provider of Mental Health Services in Denton County."

TJ Gilmore
Lewisville City Councilman

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We LIVE UNITED to help children and families succeed, to guide & serve Veterans and their families, to advocate for overall mental health, and to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring. Working together, we identify the community’s most critical needs and implement collaborative, innovative solutions to improve lives in Denton County.