

WELL-BEING OF YOUTH IN FORT DODGE AND WEBSTER COUNTY

\$55,224

is the annual income needed for a family of four to pay their basic living expenses

44%

of households live below the basic living expense threshold

64%

of our youth live in households below the basic living expense threshold



25%

of our youth live in families at or close to the poverty level

42%

of households with dependent children are headed by one parent

\$38,658

is the median household income

60%

of students in the Fort Dodge schools qualify for free or reduced lunch

37%

of our children with a mother but no father lives in poverty



50%

of our youth will never leave the area. They will be our future work force

33%

of high school students are struggling with depression

17%

of children are food insecure

7%

of our children live well below the poverty level

4%

of children live in families that do not have a car and lack personal transportation



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United Way
of Greater Fort Dodge
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United Way of Greater Fort Dodge Caring for Kids

An important measure of the quality of our community is how committed we are in investing in our youth so they will have opportunities to thrive and enjoy a brighter future.

Our youth are 20% of our population and 100% of our future. We know that at least 50% of them will never leave the area. They will be our future workforce.

Today, there are many children who are struggling and their potential is going unrealized because they live in lower income homes that are struggling to meet basic living expenses. For many children, poverty and the social ills that accompany it conspire to rob them of the gift of a hopeful future.

Statistics on the well-being of children indicate that close to 25% of youth in our community and county live in homes that are at or very close to the poverty level. Another 40% are in families that struggle to meet basic living expenses.

Many of these children begin their lives in environments that offer them huge challenges. These kids grow up in homes where housing is a insecure, food is scarce, safety is elusive, resources are very limited, nurturing is rare and education isn't valued.

Poverty in Webster County

Percent of Poverty Level	Poverty Level for a Family of 4	Percent of Children	Total Percent of Children
50%	\$12,300	7%	7%
100%	\$24,600	11%	18%
150%	\$36,900	21%	39%
200%	\$49,200	17%	56%
Basic Needs	\$55,224	8%	64%

Household Survival Budget, Webster County, Iowa 2016		
	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler	Single Adult
Housing	\$619.00	\$482.00
Child Care	\$986.00	\$0.00
Food	\$525.00	\$158.00
Transportation	\$697.00	\$349.00
Health Care	\$800.00	\$214.00
Technology	\$75.00	\$55.00
Miscellaneous	\$418.00	\$152.00
Taxes	\$482.00	\$258.00
Monthly Total	<u>\$4,602.00</u>	<u>\$1,668.00</u>
Annual Total	<u>\$55,224.00</u>	<u>\$20,016.00</u>
Hourly Wage	\$27.81	\$10.01

Source: US Dept of Housing and Urban Development, US Dept of Agriculture, Bureau of Labor Statistics, IRS: Tax Foundation and Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral, 2016