

**COMMUNITY GOAL:** People have the resources they need to support themselves and their families

**KEY MEASURES OF FINANCIAL SECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITY:**

Many of the common & needed jobs in our community **pay below** what it takes to make ends meet

When family budgets & SNAP run out, area **food pantries** are key to filling the gap

People of color are more likely than white people to **live in poverty**

**24%**

of Johnson Co. households

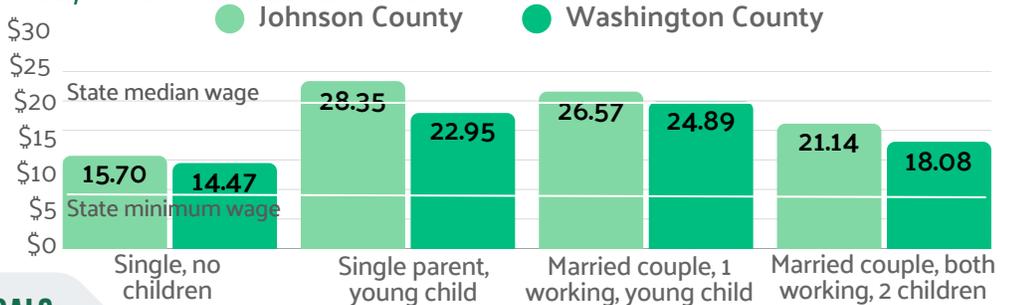
**29%**

of Washington Co. households

**are ALICE**

(Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)

**HOURLY EARNINGS REQUIRED TO MEET A BASIC-NEEDS BUDGET BY FAMILY TYPE, JOHNSON & WASHINGTON COUNTIES**



**HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOALS:**

- **Increase** the number of people who earn enough to support their basic needs
- **Improve access to public benefits & community basic needs supports** like food to help individuals and families **bridge gaps** during times of financial hardship, illness, or job loss
- Strengthen workforce readiness by **increasing participation in career training programs & creating stronger pathways** from high school to in-demand local jobs

**COMMUNITY GOAL:** Families have access to quality childcare they can afford

**KEY CHILDCARE MEASURES IN OUR COMMUNITY:**

**Low pay** – among the lowest of any profession – makes it difficult for child care centers to hire enough workers to meet demand and makes it difficult for child care workers to support their own families

**Despite the great need in our region,** participation in Child Care Assistance – the state’s program to help low-wage working parents afford child care is declining

**AVG ANNUAL COST OF CHILD CARE JOHNS. & WASH COS.**

Licensed Child Care Center	Johns. Co.	Wash. Co.
Infant	\$16,705	\$10,196
3-year-old	\$12,651	\$8,864

**Tuition & fees, U of I**

**\$11,283**

The cost of full-time child care nears or beats cost of tuition and fees at UI

**78.5%**

of young children in Johns. & Wash. Cos. have all available parents in the labor force

**HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOALS:**

- Reduce the financial burden of child care by **increasing the number of centers accepting Child Care Assistance (CCA)** and expanding the availability of CCA-funded slots
- **Increase wages for childcare workers** through non-tuition funding sources, helping centers attract staff, expand available slots & improve provider options for families

**\$12.57**

is the average wage of child care workers in Johns. & Wash. Cos.

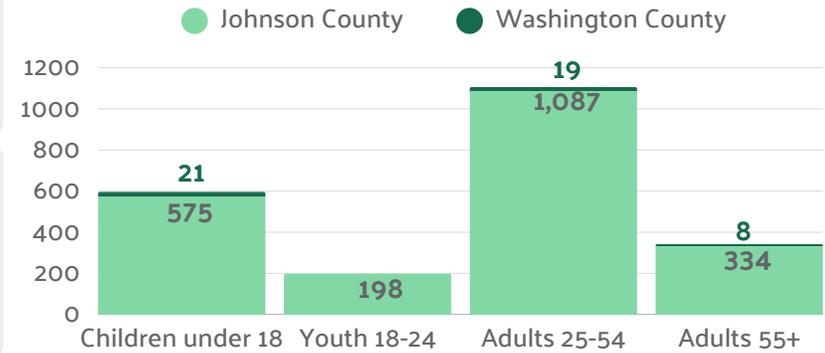
**COMMUNITY GOAL:** Everyone has safe and stable housing that they can afford

**KEY MEASURES OF HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND ADEQUACY IN OUR COMMUNITY:**

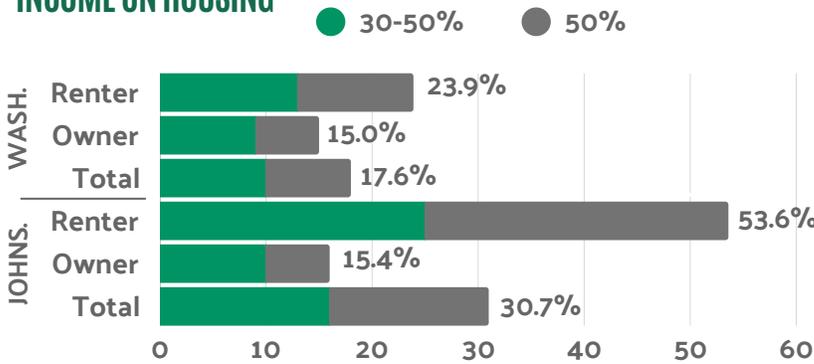
Many households are burdened by **high housing costs**; renters face biggest burdens, but homeowners are not exempt

Many individuals face housing instability – falling behind on rent, frequent moves, or doubling up – long before seeking formal support. This means service data greatly underrepresents true need

**PEOPLE WHO SOUGHT FORMAL HOUSING SERVICES OR SHELTER, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, 2023**



**PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING MORE THAN 30% OF INCOME ON HOUSING**



**HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOALS:**

- Increase the supply of affordable housing units by increasing the number of **landlords who accept housing vouchers** and exploring other innovative solutions
- Improve the **safety and quality** of housing by reducing the number of poorly maintained, deficient units

**UNITED WAY'S ROLE IN FINANCIAL SECURITY**

**FUND & COLLABORATE**

We're investing in strategies and local programs that help families achieve economic stability. Through partnerships, we connect individuals with resources to access affordable child care, housing and other basic needs and connect to job training programs. In addition, we support the **Child Care Coalition** and invest in proven approaches to reduce family homelessness, including improving access to food, providing case management, and expanding housing options.

**ADVOCATE & EDUCATE**

At United Way, we believe financial stability is the foundation for a thriving community. Yet, 40% of Johnson and Washington County individuals and families – facing barriers to stable employment, affordable housing, and essential resources – struggle to make ends meet.

We advocate for access to affordable housing and child care to help individuals build long-term financial security. We advocate for an increase to the Child Care Assistance reimbursement rates, to increase access to quality child care and promote stabilization in the child care workforce.