

WASATCH COMMUNITY SERVICE ALLIANCE

RENEE BURKLEY



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

The Math Behind the Wasatch Back

WHY ARE FAMILIES
STRUGGLING TO LIVE
HERE?



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)



1 in 5 Utah Children Go Hungry Everyday.

12.3% of Children in Wasatch County Live in Poverty
which equates to 1,068 youth.

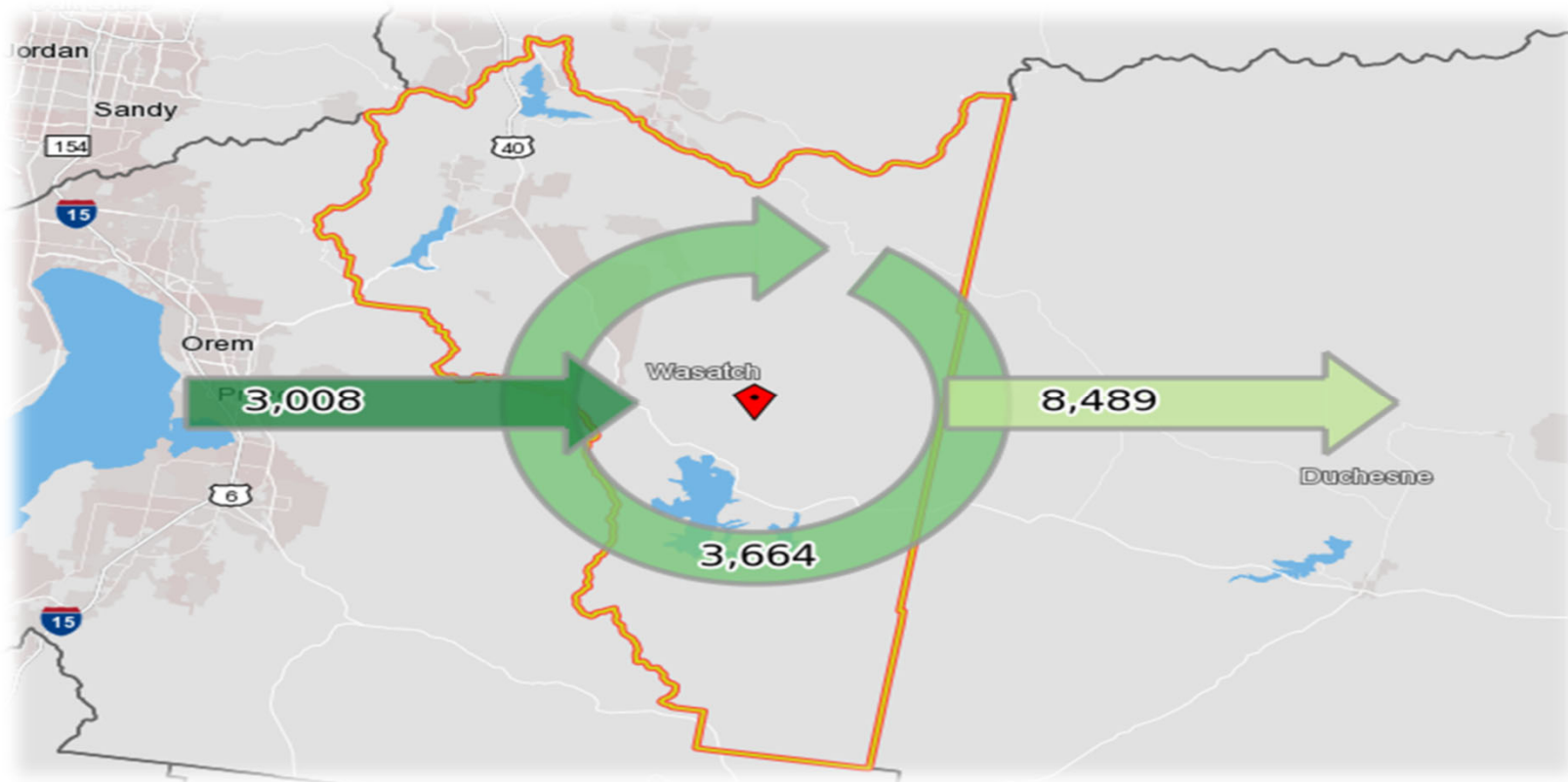


Wasatch County has over 600 elementary
schools kids, 111 middle school kids and
an undetermined number of high school
youth who face food insecurity everyday.





Why? With low-paying jobs, expensive housing (medium home price \$444,000.00) only two affordable housing units (with wait lists up to 3 years), no public transportation and many leaving the county for work. Families skimp and scrape and hope that food will last until the next payday.



Source: [Census Bureau OnTheMap Tool](#)

•[40% of Americans had trouble paying for food, medical care, housing, or utilities](#) in the last year.

•[Nearly half of Americans have no retirement savings](#), creating increases in stress-related illnesses and heart disease.

•[63% of Americans do not have \\$500 of cash on hand to handle emergencies](#) or other significant expenses.



•[70% of college grads have \\$15,000](#) or more of loans outstanding in their first year of work.

[4 in 10 Americans now have a “sides hustle”](#) to make more money to help make ends meet. Employers like Wal-Mart, McDonald’s, Ubers, and Outback Steakhouse [are now building programs to pay people every day](#), so they can better manage their cash.

Companies Are Sitting On Cash But Not Raising Wages

HR and business leaders are well aware of these financial issues, yet are afraid to raise wages.

Wages after inflation have barely budged in 44 years!

Source: [Forbes](#)

Living Wages
Estimates Based on
MIT Calculations
for 2 Adults with
rent of \$717 per
month

Household Size	Summit County	Wasatch County
1 Adult	\$11.87	\$11.30
1 Adult 1 Child	\$24.41	\$23.72
1 Adult 2 Children	\$29.60	\$28.92
1 Adult 3 Children	\$39.42	\$37.73
2 Adults (1 Working)	\$19.61	\$18.44
2 Adults (1 Working) 1 Child	\$22.58	\$21.90
2 Adults (1 Working) 2 Children	\$25.73	\$25.04
2 Adults (1 Working) 3 Children	\$29.76	\$28.07
2 Adults (Both Working)	\$9.81	\$9.22
2 Adults 1 Child	\$13.19	\$12.85
2 Adults 2 Children	\$16.44	\$16.10
2 Adults 3 Children	\$20.13	\$19.28

Source: [Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator](#)

ESTIMATED HOUSING COST PER MONTH

Household Size	Summit County	Wasatch County
1 Adult	\$701	\$615
1 Adult 1 Child	\$1,033	\$929
1 Adult 2 Children	\$1,033	\$929
1 Adult 3 Children	\$1,504	\$1,246
2 Adults (1 Working)	\$895	\$717
2 Adults (1 Working) 1 Child	\$1,033	\$929
2 Adults (1 Working) 2 Children	\$1,033	\$929
2 Adults (1 Working) 3 Children	\$1,504	\$1,246
2 Adults	\$895	\$717
2 Adults 1 Child	\$1,033	\$929
2 Adults 2 Children	\$1,033	\$929
2 Adults 3 Children	\$1,504	\$1,246

Source: [Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator](#)

Time To Do Some Math



WASATCH STATS:

27% of Wasatch Residents rent with an average wage of \$12.41/hr.

The poverty wage for Wasatch County is \$14.14/hr.

Imagine a household with two adults, three children, and one adult wage earner at \$17.91/hr (monthly income \$2865)



Cost of Living in Wasatch County:

Housing	-\$1384
Child Care	-\$0
Transportation	-\$859
Food	-\$1068
Medical	-\$461
Other	-\$510
Taxes	-\$807

Required income before taxes +\$5089

- \$2865

WCSD Survey 2017

257 Families Considered Homeless

= \$2224 short

Emergency Assistance in the Wasatch Back

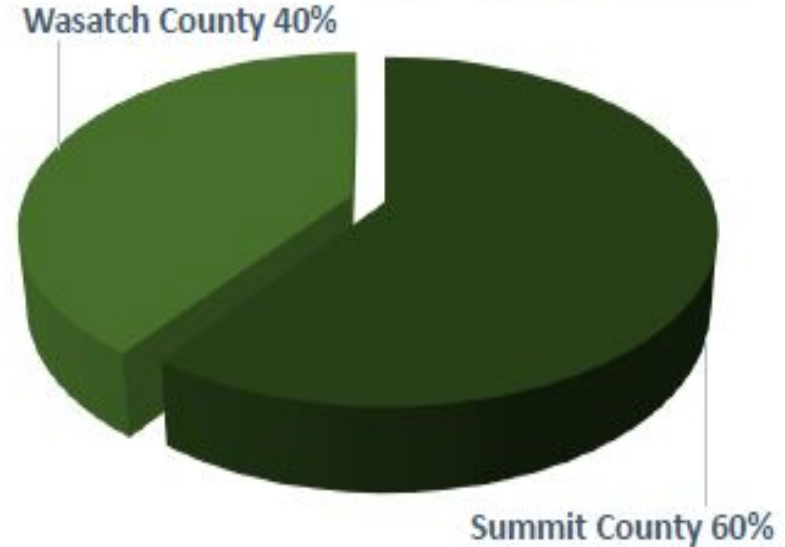
Community Action Services and Food Bank served 2,888 individuals or families in 2018.

Heber Center Stage Thrift Store and Food Pantry served 13050 individuals and 3715 households in 2018

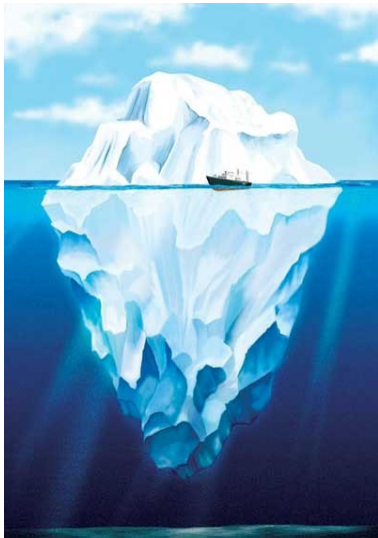
Christian Center Park City spent \$10,180.00 for the following services:

- Rent
- Auto
- Utilities
- Lodging
- Medical
- Transportation
- Hygiene
- Food
- Household
- Infant Essentials
- Other

Assistance by County



POVERTY IS REAL IN THE WASATCH BACK IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

WHAT'S BEING DONE TO HELP OUR RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES IN NEED?

- **WCSA launched “Healing Hunger Here Campaign” to address childhood hunger by making food more available to our youth. We established the High School food pantry and Middle School food closets. We supported weekend nutrition packs and are developing programs to provide food during school breaks.**
- **The Bishops Warehouse was approached by us and they agreed to support local food pantries.**
- **Transient and Indigent Assistance Brochure was updated and Law Enforcement trained on community resources.**
- **Rural Economic Development Incentive (REDI) program has launched to incentivize businesses to create jobs with higher wages.**
- **Possible collaboration with Park City Transit for transportation services.**

AND THIS IS JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE AND NEEDS TO BE DONE TO ERADICATE THE POVERTY IN THE WASATCH BACK?