

CNIC REPORT 2023



COMMUNITY NEEDS IDENTIFICATION COMMITTEE
2023 REPORT



United Way of the
Ocoee Region

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2023 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Community Needs Identification Committee (CNIC) has developed and implemented a process for analyzing data and identifying needs for the United Way of the Ocoee Region. The Committee meets regularly throughout the year with the goal of reviewing data on an on-going basis in order to understand our community's greatest needs and where they may be changing, as well as providing information that can better inform data-driven decision-making.

CNIC, in partnership with the United Way of the Ocoee Region staff, reviews data from a variety of sources on an on-going basis. Most recent data sources for the 2023 report include:

- 2023 ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) Report
- 2023 Bradley County Point-in-Time Homeless Count data
- 2022 Cleveland Police Department Report
- 2022-2023 Volunteer Behavioral Health Care Crisis Intervention data
- 2023 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Report
- 2022 TN Kids Count State of the Child Report
- Tennessee Commission for Children and Youth (TCCY) county profile data
- 2023 Bradley County JobsEQ Report
- 2022 Tennessee Bureau of Investigation county level data
- United Way of the Ocoee Region Ocoee Connect
- Charity Check
- Project Round Up
- Community Partner Impact data, local housing and childcare data, as well as other relevant state, local, and Census data to provide a thorough and well-rounded understanding of all of the issues present within the community
- Additionally, in-depth presentations were given this year by the Cleveland Police Department and their Crisis Intervention Team, our local school systems, and the Bradley County Housing Coalition

METHODOLOGY

CNIC reviewed and analyzed collected data with the purpose of determining the most immediate concerns for the communities in the UWOR service area. From the data, themes were identified and each theme was developed into a category, which was then analyzed to understand all of the potential issues that UWOR might be able to address. During this analysis, CNIC considered the impact of current community programs funded by UWOR as well as non-funded non-profit agencies, city and county government, and local corporations in developing recommendations. Though there are many needs within the community, some are being addressed by already existing programs with reasonable adequacy. The committee then looked for potential gaps in service and a list of recommendations was made for each category. Each list of recommendations was prioritized according to what areas were not being addressed at an adequate level.

NEW TO THIS REPORT

Based on the variety of data sources available, important changes have been made to this report. Below are some of the notable changes you will see:

NEW PRIORITY ADDED & PRIORITY AREA REMOVED

A new priority area for **Mental Health & Substance Abuse** with specific recommendations has been added. **Transportation** has been removed as a priority area and moved under the Additional Needs section.

WORDING CHANGES

The Emerging Needs section has been renamed **Additional Needs**.

CHANGES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of changes to recommendations have been made in the following areas:

Stable Housing

- A focus on the need of increased available housing across the entire housing continuum from homelessness to homeownership added;
- A focus on the accessibility and habitability of available housing with a definition of habitability added;
- An expansion of recommendation 3 to include increased capacity for emergency housing, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing with definitions added.

Access to Quality Childcare

- Increased capacity for affordable childcare changed to increased capacity and awareness of accessible licensed child-care facilities;
- Separate recommendation for child-care awareness removed and included under first recommendation;
- A focus on the different capacities for different ages of children added.

Access to Healthcare

- Affordable quality primary healthcare services changed to accessible quality primary healthcare services;
- That access to quality healthcare services includes dental care added;
- A focus on the gaps in services for prenatal care added;
- Mental health recommendations under healthcare have been moved to their own separate priority area.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

- Increased mental health education opportunities changed to increased capacity for psychoeducation opportunities with definition added;
- A new recommendation for increased access and affordability of substance abuse services added.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Substance Abuse has been moved from the Additional Needs section to its own separate priority area now called Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Transportation has been moved from a priority area into the Additional Needs section. Domestic violence continues to be listed under Additional Needs, and needs specific to our Aging Population have been added.

2023 COMMUNITY NEED PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

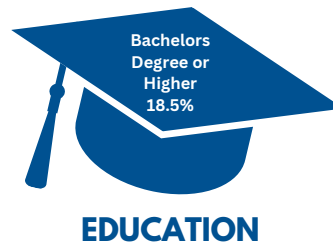
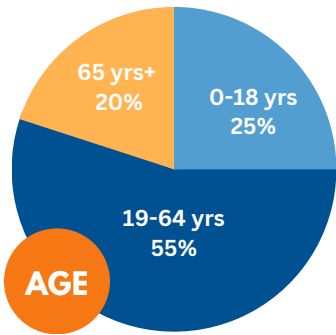
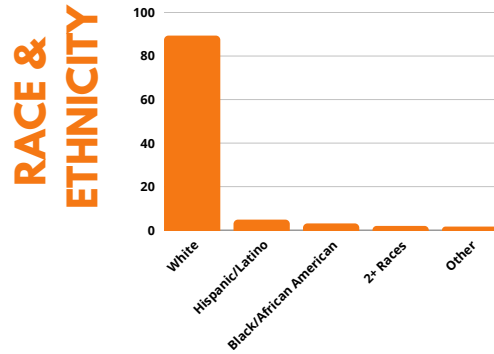
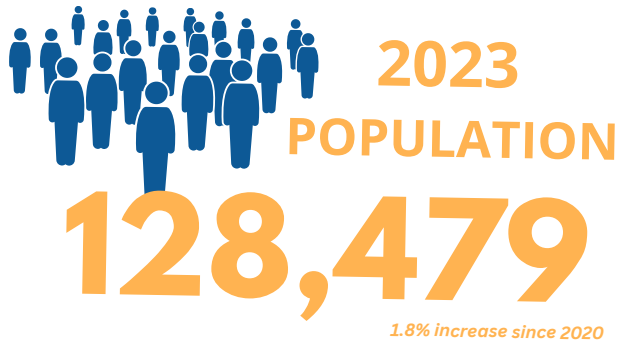
Funding cycle 2024-2025

This report recognizes an umbrella issue of great need in the community: **workforce development, specifically, due to wage stagnation, income disparity, and continuing rising inflation.** The aftermath of the pandemic and discontinuing of COVID-related support has also created a new landscape of needs in the community. The overall goal of UWOR is to work to meet these needs. There are two broad ways these issues can be addressed: 1) increase wages for workers, or 2) reduce the cost of living for those with low incomes. UWOR has limited influence to increase wages for obvious reasons, however, it can fund programs aimed at reducing the cost of living expenses or providing assistance to individuals and families so they are better able to afford the cost of living. This is where the following list of recommendations is focused.

Though the role UWOR plays is more than a funding entity, working with community partners to meet needs is vital if we are to have a major impact. For this reason, the following recommendations are written to guide funding decisions. It is expected that, with the help of UWOR staff, local organizations will be able to create the programs that are best suited to meet each need.

2023 OCOEE REGION

BRADLEY & POLK COUNTY



STABLE HOUSING

There is a gap in services for individuals who find themselves without shelter due to an emergency or other life-changing circumstances. Additionally, there is a need for services to transition individuals to permanent housing. We recommend prioritizing funding decisions in the following areas:

Recommendation 1: Increase capacity to facilitate the prevention of eviction and the ability for rapid rehousing.

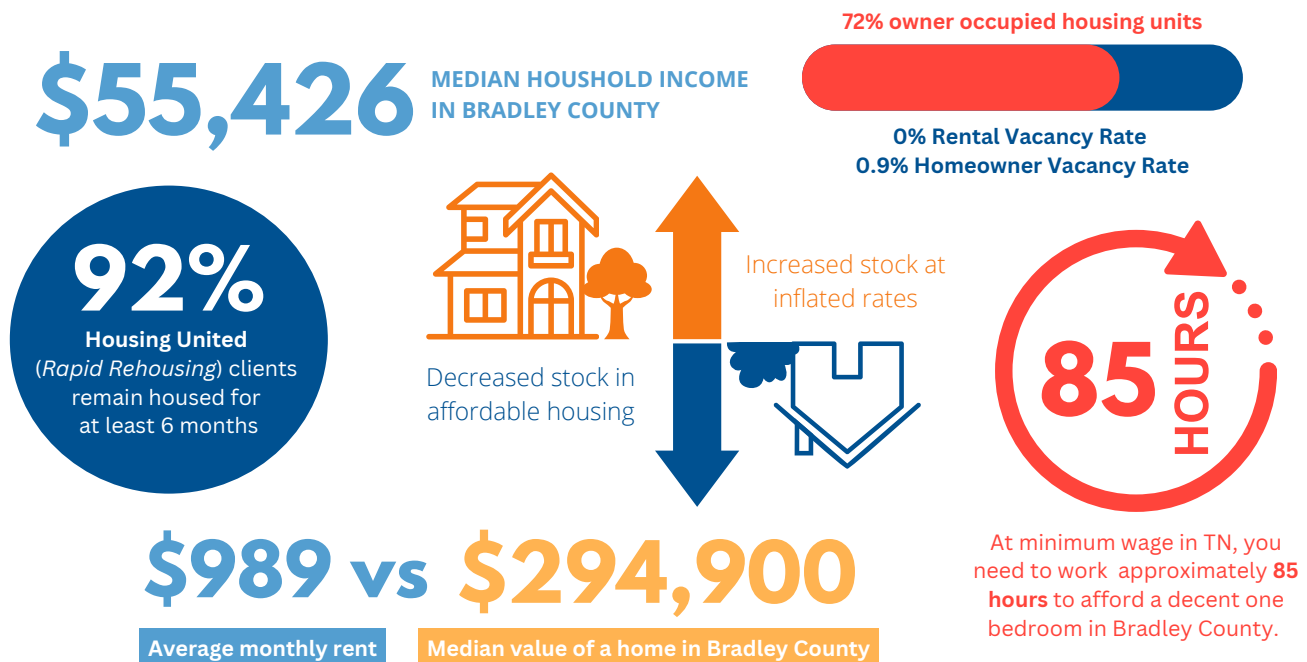
- Eviction contributes to credit history issues that can inhibit the acquisition of new rental agreements and home ownership.
- There is a continuing gap in the service of identifying cases early, coordinating services between agencies, and managing those cases until suitable housing is found.
- *Rapid Rehousing* is designed to help households quickly exit homelessness, return to housing in the community, and not become homeless again in the near term. The core components of *Rapid Rehousing* are: housing identification, move-in and rent assistance, and case management services. (1)

Recommendation 2: Increase availability of accessible housing that meets habitability standards.

- There is a need for increased available housing across the continuum from homelessness to homeownership.
- The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) habitability standards include standards around health, safety, accessibility, and basic housing needs. (2)

Recommendation 3: Increase capacity for focused and coordinated housing care.

- Emergency housing is “any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations.” (3)
- Permanent supportive housing is “an intervention that combines affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of the chronically homeless. The services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills and connect people with community-based healthcare, treatment, and employment services.” (4)



(1) What is Rapid Rehousing? Retrieved from <https://endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/solutions/rapid-re-housing/>

(2) <https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DHAPSANDYHABITCHKLIST.PDF>

(3) https://archives.huduser.gov/portal/glossary/glossary_all.html

(4) Permanent Supportive Housing: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Q7V-p_jGVo8FycfST-v0mdgjOPYNZr-bhKZMavtV4C4/edit

Graphic Source: United States Census Bureau (July 1, 2022 - Bradley and Polk County, Tennessee); www.realtor.com; <https://www.apartments.com/>

QUALITY CHILDCARE

In Tennessee, as a result of childcare challenges:

- 26% Quit or were fired from a job
- 30% Went from full-time to part-time
- 32% Turned down a job offer or promotion
- 20% Left the workforce



24%

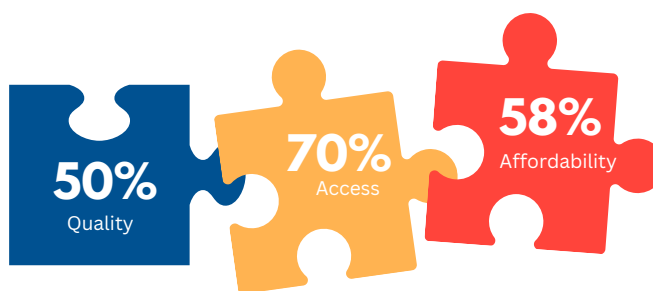
Income spent on childcare

In Bradley County, the average household spent 24% of its income on child care for two children. However, **78% of single mothers fall into the ALICE population**, carrying the increasing cost of childcare themselves.



\$758
per month
average
cost of
childcare
in TN

Tennessee
parents' most
significant
challenges in
finding childcare



ACCESS TO QUALITY CHILDCARE

After school care is prevalent in the service area with a number of options for individuals who are income constrained, however, there is very little childcare available during typical work hours. According to the 2023 ALICE Report, 78% of single mothers fall into this asset-limited, income-constrained population. This reduces the potential workforce and limits economic mobility. Additionally, a majority of parents report difficulty in finding childcare that is high-quality, fits within their budget, and accommodates work schedules. (5) We recommend prioritizing funding decisions in the following areas:

Recommendation 1: Increase capacity and awareness of accessible licensed child-care facilities.

- Engage and involve local businesses and industries to identify possible ideas to increase capacity.
- Inform businesses and industries, as well as the overall public, of available childcare facilities as some are underused.
- Childcare providers in Bradley County found that staffing issues for child-care providers have been a significant challenge in providing consistent high-quality child-care locally. (6)
- There are varying capacities for programs that are serving different age groups of from infants to school age children, with capacity most limited for the birth to age 2 age group.

Recommendation 2: Develop a child-care advocacy program.

- Model child-care advocacy programs have been successful in other communities, explore the development of an advocacy program to connect families in need to available childcare assistance in our community.

HEALTHCARE

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Healthcare continues to be an area of deep need in our community. Unfortunately, there is a limit of healthcare options for individuals with little to no insurance. For this reason, we recommend prioritizing funding decisions in the following areas:

Recommendation 1: Increase the accessibility of quality primary healthcare services.

- Many of those from the ALICE population are unable to pay for healthcare services.
- Accessibility of quality primary healthcare services also includes access to quality dental care.

Recommendation 2: Increase access to healthcare services for Polk County residents.

- Individuals from Polk County have very few options and often must travel to Bradley County for most medical services.
- Polk County ranks 84th out of 95 counties in the state for adequate prenatal care options. (7)



Access to key health providers, recreational opportunities, and healthy food options are essential to community well being.

13%

Average Percentage of
Ocoee Region
Residents without
Health Insurance

1:2,806

DENTAL CARE PROVIDERS TO
POLK COUNTY RESIDENTS



1:2,133

PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS TO
OCOEE REGION RESIDENTS

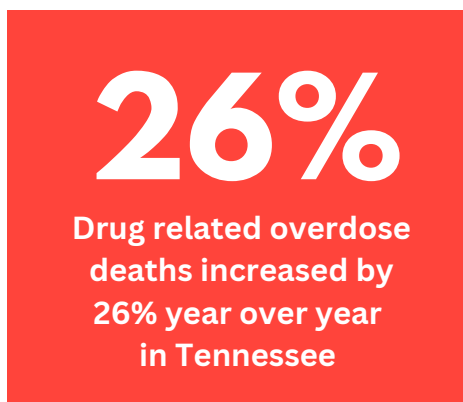
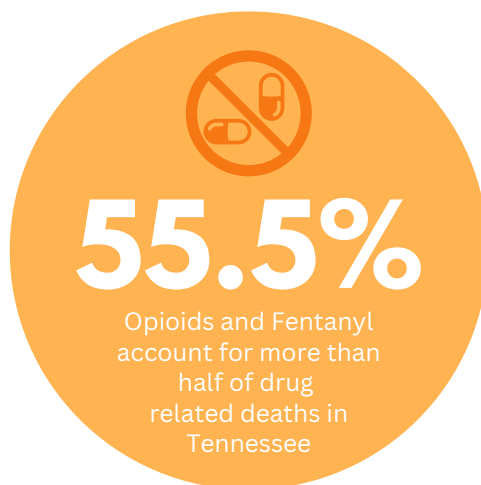
14.9% INCREASE
IN FOOD COSTS
SINCE 2021

According to the CPI, national food prices increased by 11.2% from 2021 to 2022, and an additional 3.7% from 2022 to 2023.

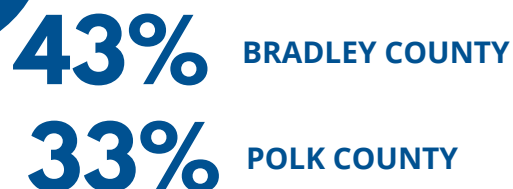
MENTAL HEALTH

1:16,835

MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO
POLK COUNTY RESIDENTS



Increase in drug and narcotic violations compared to previous year



MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Mental health and substance abuse related needs continue to increase in Bradley and Polk Counties. There are gaps that exist around both access and affordability of mental health and substance abuse treatment and services. We recommend prioritizing funding decisions in the following areas:

Recommendation 1: Increase access and affordability of mental health services.

- While we do have service providers in the area, there are gaps that exist around both affordability and community awareness of mental health services.

Recommendation 2: Increase capacity for psychoeducational opportunities.

- Psychoeducation is a therapeutic intervention that aims to provide an individual and their family with information about a mental health condition and its treatment. (8)

Recommendation 3: Increase access and affordability of substance abuse services.

- Drug and narcotic violations have increased 43% in Bradley County and 33% in Polk County compared to the previous year. (9) (10)
- Access and affordability are two issues surrounding substance abuse treatment services in our area.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

The following indicate areas of additional needs that have been identified in the community. These needs do not currently include specific recommendations, but highlight the need for additional data to gain a better understanding of each issue. It is recommended that, whenever possible, resources be made available to better understand the issues raised here. Previous needs identified in this section have been removed due to a new understanding showing no need for prioritization, the ability to incorporate the need within the above priorities, or new data showing the need is no longer rising to priority status. New areas of emerging need include:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

While cases of domestic violence have decreased in Bradley County, they have increased in Polk County. Agencies serving this population locally have reported not being able to meet all requests for shelter due to the shelter being at maximum capacity. Organizations serving this population also reported that transportation was a primary need of their clients, as well as transitional housing. We are working to collect additional data around domestic violence locally, to better understand the issue and needs of those that are impacted.



Local shelters are at maximum capacity.

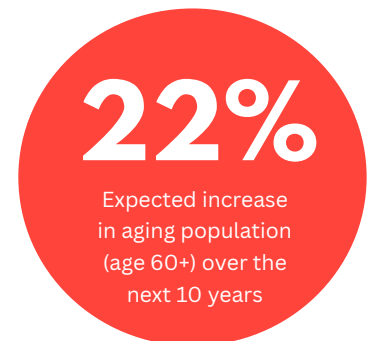
TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation options have shown to be inadequate for meeting the needs of workers in our community, lack of service to major employers as well as the need for longer hours to account for second shift workers are two areas that have been highlighted. Facilitated coordination is needed between industries, government, and nonprofit agencies to collaborate on solutions. Additional data is needed on the impact that transportation has on our local businesses and industries as our community continues to grow.



AGING POPULATION NEEDS

We are seeing increased needs surrounding the aging population for those 65 and older in Bradley County. The percentage of those on disability is increasing as well as the percentage experiencing dementia and other cognitive issues. We are working to collect additional data around the specific needs for this population related to housing, health, transportation, etc. Additionally, in Bradley County at age 85+, women's population is almost double that of men. This could have potential economic implications, as women in these years have traditionally not had earnings equitable to men. Divorce, gender wage gap, and years in unpaid labor converge to create more financial stress for aging women.



2023 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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