



## Data in Action: Ionia County Poverty

January 2009

### 2009 Poverty guidelines for Michigan

- Single person with annual income of \$10,830
- Family of 2 annual income of \$14,570
- Family of 3 annual income of \$18,310
- Family of 4 annual income of \$22,050



### What does it take to meet basic needs in our community?

For a one-parent family with a child living in our community, a monthly budget has to stretch to cover the cost of these basic needs:

\$619 Rent (Fair Market cost of a 2 bedroom apartment)  
\$317 Food (Does not include household items)  
\$553 Child Care (one child)  
\$343 Transportation (based on owning a car)  
\$196 Health Care  
\$225 Other Necessities (telephone, apparel, personal items, etc.)  
\$164 Taxes  
**= \$2,417 per month (\$29,004 per year) <sup>2</sup>**

*The above budget is based on average costs in Ionia County, if a family were to meet basic expenses without relying on government or nonprofit assistance. The Department of Human Services EightCap, Community Mental Health, Michigan Works, etc. are local agencies that assists with services such as: cost of rent, childcare, food and transportation, etc. for those who qualify.*

### Highlights within Ionia County <sup>3</sup>

- 6.7% of all families have children under the age of 5
- 9.2% unemployment rate within Ionia County <sup>4</sup>
- 40% of residents are not in the labor force
- 12.1% of residents have bachelor's degree or higher
- 26.2% of Ionia County Residents are below the poverty level (2008)
- 9.8% of families are below the poverty level (2008)
- 10.0% of 65 year-olds and older are below the poverty level (2007)
- 12.5% of 18-64 year-olds are below the poverty level (2007)
- 15.9% of 18 year-olds and over are below the poverty level (2007)
- 13.2% of 5 to 17 year-olds are below the poverty level (2007)

### Highlights within the State of Michigan <sup>3</sup>

- 13.3% of Michigan residents are below poverty
- 43% of all families in poverty are working

**For further information or questions please contact the Community Health Division at the Ionia County Health Department at 616-527-5341**

#### References:

- <sup>1</sup> US Department of Health and Human Services, <http://aspe.hhs.gov/POVERTY/>, 2009
- <sup>2</sup> Economic Policy Institute: Basic Family Budget Calculator, November 2008
- <sup>3</sup> US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) 2007
- <sup>4</sup> Michigan Labor Market Information, [www.milmi.org](http://www.milmi.org), January 2009

