

CAPC Needs Assessment 2015 for ESPRI Transportation Work Group

Jefferson County Poverty Profile

15% of the population in Jefferson County lives at less than 100% of the poverty level* (ACS, 5-year estimates, 2010 – 2014). This is slightly below the poverty levels of NYS and the United States, estimated at 15.61% and 15.59% respectively. The poverty breakdown of Jefferson County is as follows:

- 6.3% of the population lives in extreme poverty – below 50% of the poverty level
- 15% of the population lives in poverty – at less than 100% of the poverty level
- 19.9% of the population lives near poverty – at less than 125% of the poverty level

Poverty level refers to the **poverty thresholds that are updated each year by the Census Bureau. The thresholds are used to define and quantify poverty in America, and thereby provide a yardstick for progress or regress in antipoverty efforts. The most recent values of the poverty thresholds are provided in the table below.*

U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Thresholds, 2014	
Size of Family Unit	Poverty Threshold
One person (unrelated individual)	\$12,071
Under age 65	12,316
Age 65 or older	11,354
Two people	15,379
Householder under age 65	15,934
Householder age 65 or older	14,326
Three people	18,850
Three people with two related children	19,073
Four people	24,230
Four people with two related children	24,008
Five people	28,695
Five people with two related children	28,960
Six people	32,473
Six people with two related children	33,303
Seven people	36,927
Seven people with two related children	38,375
Eight people	40,968
Eight people with two related children	43,179
Nine people or more	49,021

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Thresholds for 2014 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children under 18 Years, released in September 2015.

City of Watertown Poverty Profile

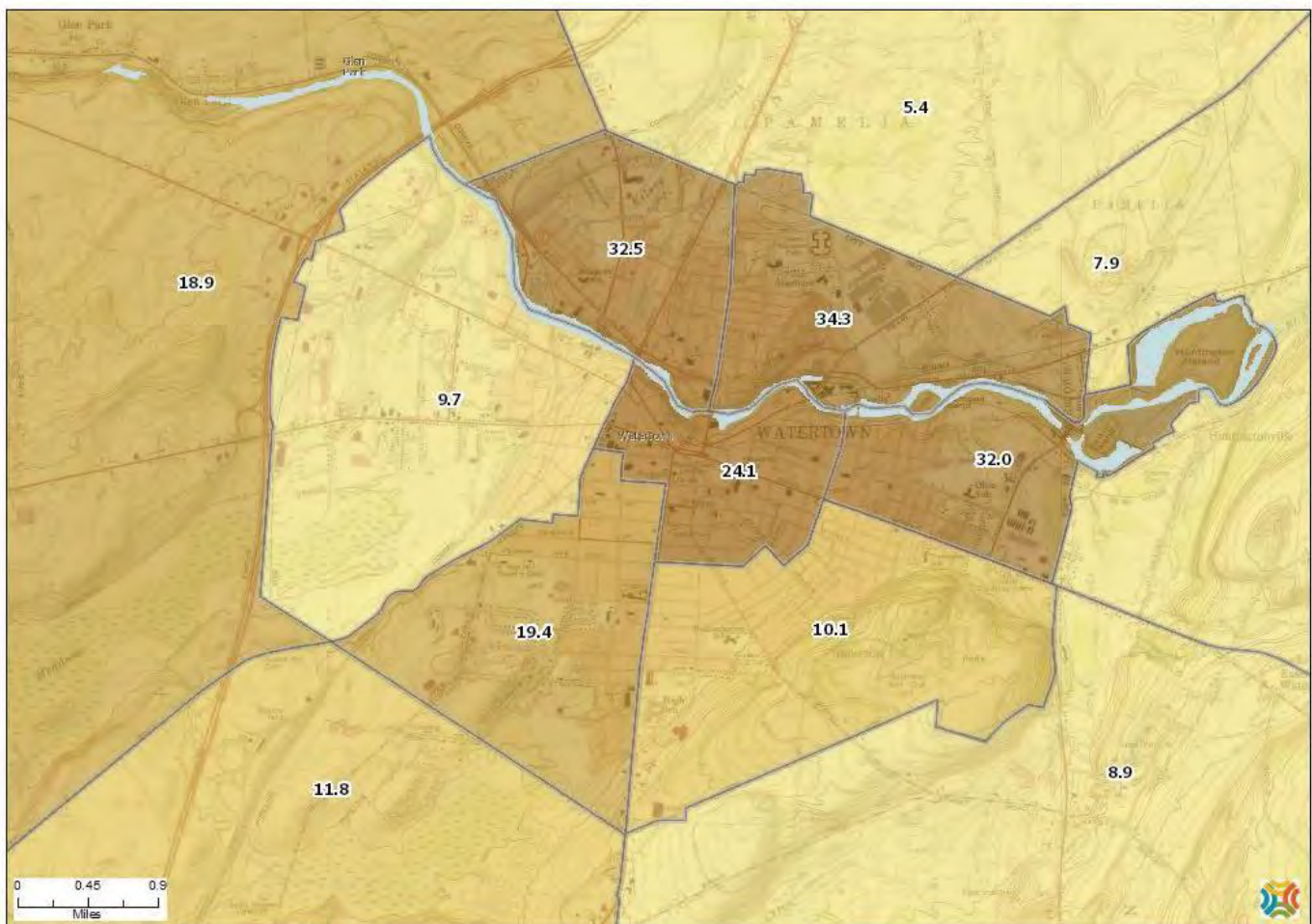
22.2% of the population of the City of Watertown lives at less than 100% of the poverty level* (ACS, 5-year estimates, 2010 – 2014). This is significantly higher than the poverty levels of NYS and the United States, estimated at 15.61% and 15.59% respectively. The poverty breakdown of Jefferson County is as follows:

- 8.7% of the population lives in extreme poverty – below 50% of the poverty level
- 22.2% of the population lives in poverty – at less than 100% of the poverty level
- 27.4% of the population lives near poverty – at less than 125% of the poverty level

33.1% of children (0 – 17) in the City live at less than 100% of the poverty level (ACS, 5-year estimates, 2010 – 2014).

The deepest pockets of poverty can be found in the portions of the City (defined by Census Tracts) to the north, northeast, city center and southwest, all well in excess of the country poverty rate of 15%.

City of Watertown Poverty by Census Tract



*City of Watertown Poverty Rates by Census Tract
American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2010 – 2014
Map Courtesy of Community Commons*

Community Needs

The Work Group's findings are summarized under the category headings: Living Wage Jobs, Transportation, Housing, Child Care, Adult Education, Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse, Youth / Family Activities, and Public Relations. Data summaries are listed under each category heading, followed by italicized statements of need, labeled as community (C), family (F) or agency (A) level.

Recognizing the interconnectedness of the identified needs, the Work Group opted not to rank needs although it was agreed that lack of living wage job opportunities is integral to the other categories and to economic stability.

Transportation

There is limited public transportation in Jefferson County. Buses are available in the City of Watertown with limited routes and hours of operation. Taxi service is available in Watertown, Carthage and Fort Drum. The Volunteer Transportation Center provides transportation to and from medical appointments and limited trips for groceries.

Transportation was a topic of discussion at two focus groups and was identified by more than half of community partners surveyed as one of the top barriers to maintaining employment. Nearly one-third of low-income households surveyed indicated that transportation was a problem in the previous 12 months. The most commonly-reported transportation issues were: no access to a car, unable to afford repairs, and unable to afford gas.

Statements of Need

The community lacks public transportation, particularly outside the city and in rural areas (C)

Low-income households lack access to a car or are unable to afford vehicle maintenance (F)

Customer Survey Summary

Customer Survey – Synopsis of Aggregated Data March through May 2015

Between March 9 and May 15, 2015, a total of 520 households completed the survey which was distributed in paper and electronic forms. The survey was completed by a variety of agency customers, representative of all program areas. Additionally, the survey was made available to individuals participating in the Job Club at the Jefferson-Lewis Workplace, the area's one-stop employment center.

A summary of data follows with comparisons against the previous customer survey, conducted in 2011.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE and HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Gender of Person Completing Survey

75.3%	Female
24.7%	Male

Age of Person Completing Survey

9%	18 – 23
53%	24 – 44
13%	45 – 54
15%	55 – 69
10%	70+

Ethnicity of Person Completing Survey

93.5%	Non-Hispanic
6.5%	Hispanic

Race of Person Completing Survey

92.5%	Caucasian
4.1%	African American
1.6%	Multi-Racial
1.4%	Native American/Alaskan
0.6%	Asian

Income (403 Households Reporting)

20%	Up to 50% of Poverty Level
17%	51 – 75% of Poverty Level
18%	76 – 100% of Poverty Level
16%	101 – 125% of Poverty Level
8%	126 – 150% of Poverty Level
6%	151 – 175% of Poverty Level
7%	176 – 200% of Poverty Level
8%	200+% of Poverty Level

Household Size

25.3%	HH of 1
15.5%	HH of 2
13.7%	HH of 3
17.3%	HH of 4
16.7%	HH of 5
5.1%	HH of 6
3.1%	HH of 7
1.8%	HH of 8
1.4%	HH greater than 8

Highest Level of Education of Person Completing Survey

26.5%	High School Graduate
21.4%	Some College (or still in College)
19.5%	Less than High School Diploma
11.7%	GED or High School Equivalency
8.8%	Two-Year Degree
7.0%	Vocational or Trade School
3.9%	Four-Year Degree
1.4%	Graduate Degree

Primary Language Spoken in HH

98.6%	English
1.4%	Spanish

Home Community of HH

53.8%	Watertown (Survey did not differentiate between City and Town of Watertown)
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Other most commonly reported home communities are: Clayton – 9.2%, Carthage – 4.1%, Adams/Adams Center – 4.9% Dexter – 3.7%, Fort Drum – 2.3%, Theresa – 2.5%, and Antwerp – 2.1%

Military in HH

19.5% report that a member of the HH has served in the military

Aging Parent in HH

5.6% report having an aging parent who lives in the HH

TRANSPORTATION

32.8% report that transportation has been a problem within their households in the past 12 months.

Most Common Transportation Issues

	2011	2015
No access to car	28.6%	36.5%
Unable to afford car repairs	31.8%	25.6%
Unable to afford gas	34.3%	23.3%
No license / license suspended	25.1%	16.1%
No car insurance	12.4%	9.8%