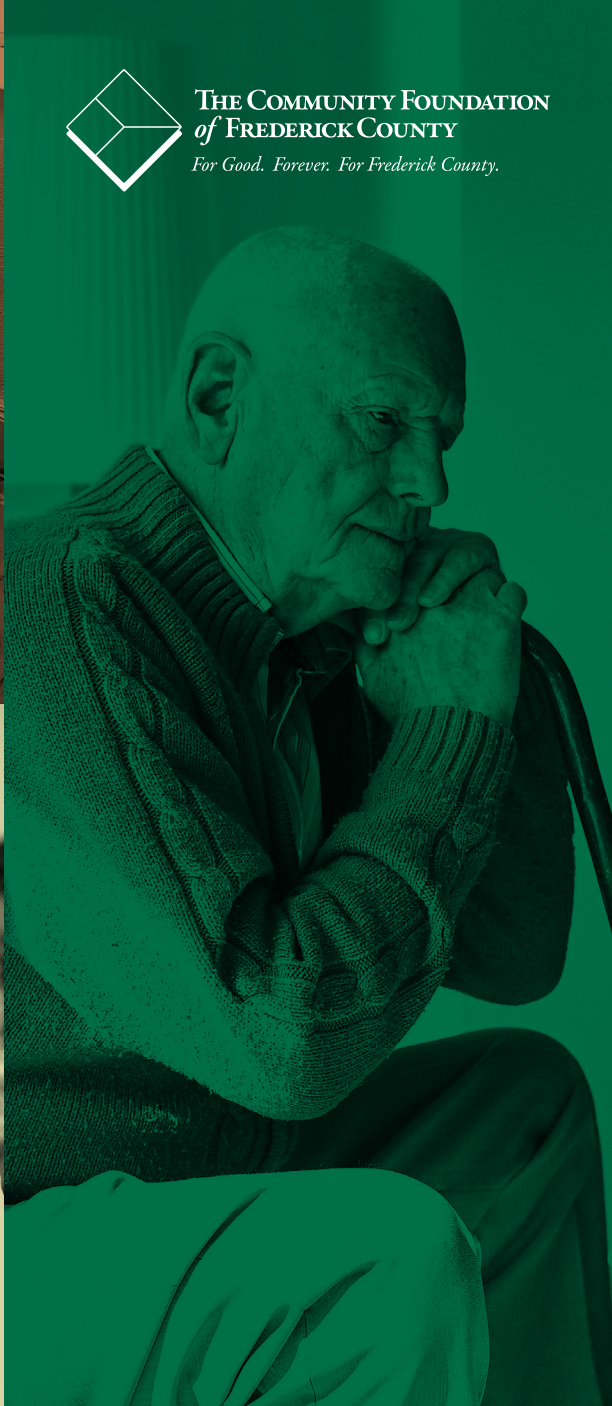




THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
of FREDERICK COUNTY  
*For Good. Forever. For Frederick County.*



2018 FREDERICK COUNTY  
*Human Needs  
Assessment*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The contents of the 2018 Frederick County Human Needs Assessment are the responsibility of the authors only, Devereux Consulting and Social Science Consultants, and do not reflect the views of The Community Foundation of Frederick County, the other project co-sponsors, or the many persons inside Frederick County and elsewhere who participated in interviews, focus groups, surveys and other means of collecting information.

Erik Devereux, Ph.D. (Devereux Consulting) and Beth Osborne Daponte, Ph.D. (Social Science Consultants) acknowledge the contributions made to this project by Jennifer Darby/Fieri LLC (secondary data acquisition), Lillian Cruz and Stephanie McLaughlin (key informant interviews and focus groups), and Ellen Whitehead, Will Moustakakis and John Encandela, Ph.D. (research literature reviews).



The contents of the Executive Summary reflect the view and the intended actions of the Community Foundation with respect to its grantmaking, leadership, collaboration, advocacy, and community education activities.

THE COMPLETE 2018  
FREDERICK COUNTY  
HUMAN NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT REPORT  
can be accessed on the  
Community Foundation's  
website at [www.FrederickCountyGives.org/  
NeedsReport](http://www.FrederickCountyGives.org/NeedsReport).



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THE COMPLETE 2018 FREDERICK COUNTY  
HUMAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT  
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website at [www.FrederickCountyGives.org/NeedsReport](http://www.FrederickCountyGives.org/NeedsReport).

## INTRODUCTION

The Community Foundation of Frederick County is pleased to present this executive summary of the 2018 Frederick County Human Needs Assessment. The Community Foundation, along with numerous co-sponsors, funded the research summarized here and in the full report to help guide its grantmaking and scholarship programs for the next decade. The executive summary and full report also serve as a common reference for governments, nonprofits and other organizations that seek to improve human well-being in Frederick County.

The over-arching goal of the Community Foundation, local funders, and philanthropists is to provide meaningful grantmaking that is impactful in Frederick County. The Community Foundation hopes that all residents of Frederick County will benefit from the data and assist with raising awareness of the issues within. The human needs discussed here pose significant challenges that will require broad participation to secure a better future for Frederick County.

Accompanying this executive summary and full report is a dynamic online, interactive data visualization tool based on the aggregation of many different third-party verified, official sources of demographics and statistics. Please see “Visualization Tool” information on page 9 for more details.

With the combined resources of the project’s co-sponsors, the Community Foundation greatly expanded the scope and improved the methodology to accomplish an ambitious project plan for the 2018 Human Needs Assessment under the direction of Devereux Consulting, Inc. of Silver Spring, Maryland and Social Science Consultants LLC of Stratford, Connecticut.

It is important to note that several other organizations and groups in Frederick County are assessing and responding to local human needs. These include Frederick County Government, Frederick Regional Health System, Frederick County Health Department, and United Way of Frederick County. This report sought to complement and learn from them. The 2018 Human Needs Assessment benefited from access to their findings and recommendations.

All participants in this project – key informants, focus groups, and survey respondents – were identified by the Community Foundation and the Human Needs Assessment Research Advisory Board members. Their participation was managed and scheduled by Social Science Consultants, and all participants were assured their comments would not be individually attributed.



## METHODOLOGY

The 2018 Human Needs Assessment pursued a multi-method, multi-source strategy to ensure multiple perspectives and data on human needs as they have evolved in the County since 2011. Components of the research process included:

- ◆ Gathered expert and community input through key informant interviews and focus groups:
  - ◆ 43 interviews in Frederick County spanning the nonprofit, public, and private sectors.
  - ◆ 12 interviews of community leaders in comparable counties.
  - ◆ 6 focus groups in Frederick County on these topics:
    - ◆ Housing and income challenges
    - ◆ Substance use disorder
    - ◆ Role and limitations of government
    - ◆ Diversity and social acceptance
    - ◆ Challenges of providing for aging
    - ◆ Supporting youth and families
- ◆ Surveyed community-engaged persons across Frederick County regarding perceptions of past and current trends related to human needs. The survey also asked about priorities within the areas of education, community amenities, and social services. A total of 309 online responses were received.
- ◆ Trends in Frederick County were compared with the trends in the State of Maryland, the United States as a whole, and six carefully selected comparison counties around the United States.
- ◆ Literature reviews of published research related to the issues and themes emerging out of the 2018 Human Needs Assessment were used to identify factors behind recent trends and promising, evidenced-based practices that might be imported to Frederick County.
- ◆ Recommendations made by cross-referencing these sources.

## WHAT MAKES THE 2018 HUMAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT EXCEPTIONAL AND DIFFERENT?

- ◆ The report takes into consideration other reports such as ALICE (status of low-income working families) and Livable Frederick, and ongoing efforts in the County related to ACEs, housing, homelessness, health and others.
- ◆ All data included herein is third-party verified.
- ◆ Multi-method connections are made among quantitative and qualitative sources of information.
- ◆ The report is accompanied by an online data visualization tool. See information about this tool on page 9.

### COMPARISON COUNTIES

Many similar human needs assessments conducted outside of Frederick County gather data about differences within the study region. The 2018 Human Needs Assessment recognized the importance of understanding variations in conditions within Frederick County, but the variations did not allow for placing conditions within Frederick County into a broader, more systematic perspective. To gain that perspective, the 2018 Human Needs Assessment sought to use secondary data provided by the U.S. Census and other highly reputable sources to compare Frederick County to other similar places around the nation. This component of the project involved selecting six counties with very similar features to Frederick County:

#### INSIDE THE REGION:

- ◆ Anne Arundel County, Maryland
- ◆ Carroll County, Maryland
- ◆ Chesterfield County, Virginia

#### OUTSIDE THE REGION:

- ◆ Santa Barbara County, California
- ◆ McHenry County, Illinois
- ◆ Dutchess County, New York

Key informant interviews were held with one key government leader and one key leader within the local community foundation representing each of these counties.

The criteria used to select these comparison counties can be found in the 2018 Human Needs Assessment full report, beginning on page 11.

### METHODOLOGY LIMITATIONS:

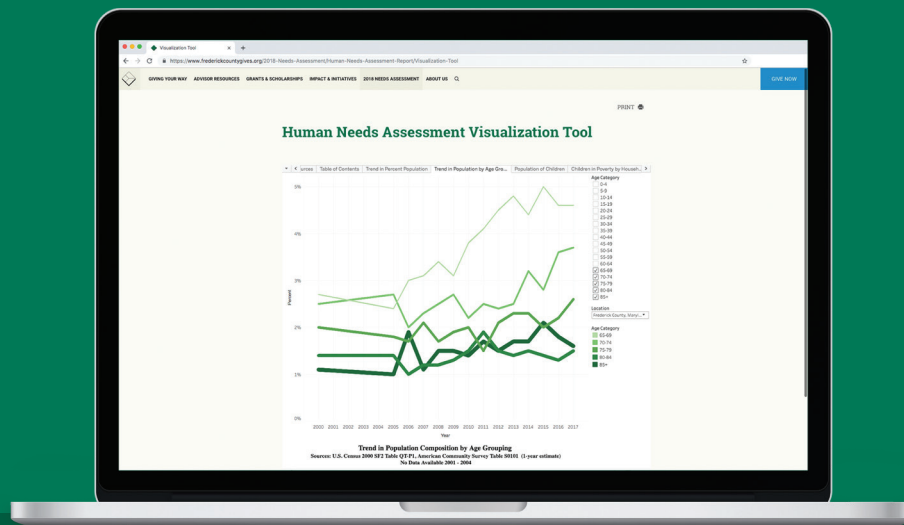
The primary limitation of the methodology used for the 2018 Human Needs Assessment is that the qualitative information collected through interviews, focus groups and the one survey is not necessarily representative of public opinion in Frederick County or the comparison counties. The report is careful not to make claims about public opinion in Frederick County or to recommend approaches to addressing human needs as if such are supported by a majority in the public. These information collection methods were designed to reach individuals who have expertise in the issues (those who live and work in Frederick County and representatives from comparison counties) through a combination of education and direct experience in their regions. It was not feasible with the resources available for this project to sample public opinion in a representative manner.



## VISUALIZATION TOOL

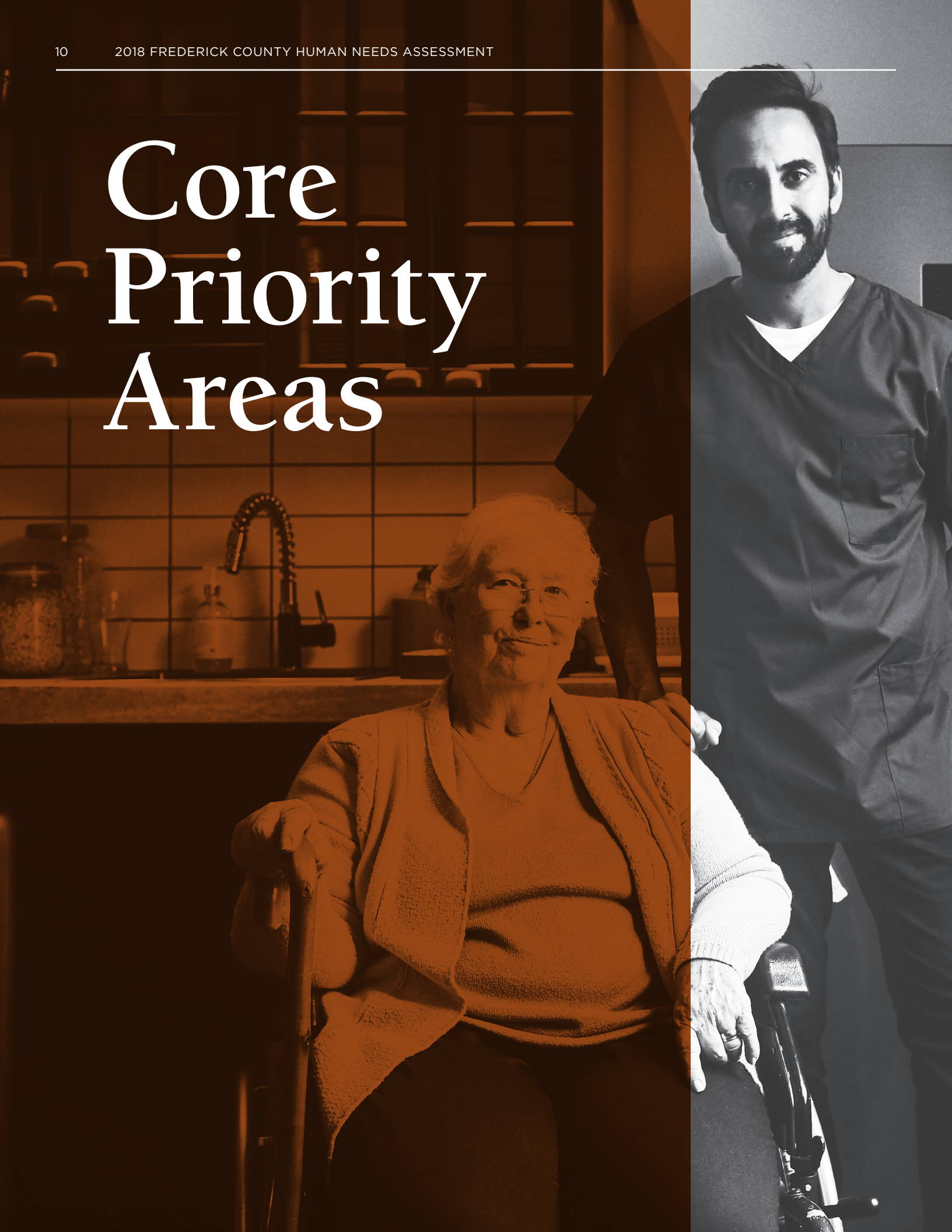
An online, interactive, dynamic visualization tool is available through the Community Foundation's website at [www.FrederickCountyGives.org/NeedsReportTool](http://www.FrederickCountyGives.org/NeedsReportTool). Users can examine important local, state, and national trends over the prior 20 years related to human needs in Frederick County. The tool is based on the aggregation of many different official sources of demographics and statistics and offers easy access to data about social and economic conditions of relevance to government officials, nonprofits, and the general public. The Community Foundation is providing this tool to encourage ongoing attention to trends that impact the quality of life for all county residents, businesses, and the labor force. The information contained within the visualization tool will be updated as data becomes available.

The sources used to populate data within the visualization tool include information from the National Center for Education Statistics and the U.S. Census/American Community Survey. One-year and five-year American Community Survey responses are also included. Users are encouraged to read the information on the tab titled "Notes on Data Sources" within the visualization tool to better understand the data.



**ACCESS THE ONLINE, VISUALIZATION TOOL THAT PROVIDES INTERACTIVE DATA ABOUT THIS REPORT AT [WWW.FREDERICKCOUNTYGIVES.ORG/NEEDSREPORTTOOL](http://WWW.FREDERICKCOUNTYGIVES.ORG/NEEDSREPORTTOOL)**

# Core Priority Areas







The Community Foundation last funded a human needs assessment in 2011. The resulting report suggested that three clusters of human needs in the County should be among the highest priorities, which the Community Foundation then adopted as its strategic initiatives:

- ◆ Health care, with focus on access to care, including mental health.
- ◆ Children and youth, with focus on school readiness for children ages 0-5.
- ◆ Basic human needs and financial sustainability, with focus on services to the newly homeless and precariously housed.

To address these initiatives, the Community Foundation provided funding to nonprofits, active leadership to consortia focused on solving problems in these areas, advocacy for positive change, and opportunities for collaboration and public education.

The Community Foundation launched the 2018 Human Needs Assessment knowing that these three clusters of needs remain priorities that continue to be widely recognized across Frederick County. At the same time, Frederick County is undergoing important demographic and social changes as one of the fastest growing counties in Maryland and in its role as a commuter suburb of the surrounding metropolitan areas.

The results of the 2018 Human Needs Assessment elevate the following as high priorities in Frederick County:

- ◆ Supporting families with children.
- ◆ Preparing for a growing aging population.
- ◆ Responding to substance use disorder.

Based upon these stated high priorities, the Community Foundation will transition its activities in grantmaking, advocacy, leadership, collaboration, and education in FY2020 from the 2011 strategic areas to the updated priorities.

# Need

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Frederick County prides itself on being an ideal place for families to raise children, with excellent schools and many opportunities for its youth. However, today's families with children are in a precarious position facing an uncertain future.



The key findings about supporting families with children in Frederick County are:

- ◆ Since 2008, Frederick County has fallen behind the State of Maryland and the U.S. in the childbearing population of adults 24-39 years old.
- ◆ Many community-engaged persons believe that the situation of families with children has worsened in recent years.
- ◆ Families with children need improved access to quality childcare and out-of-school activities and supervision.
- ◆ The cost of childcare is a heavy burden for families in Frederick County.
- ◆ Funding for instruction in Frederick County Public Schools is lower than in most other Maryland counties yet the schools are a high priority for families.
- ◆ A lack of affordable housing and student loan debt puts additional financial pressures on families with children.



## THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S RESPONSE:

Beginning in FY2020, the Community Foundation's focus on supporting families with children includes these strategic initiatives:

- ◆ Make Frederick County a great place for all families to raise children.
- ◆ Focus support and efforts on ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families.

The Community Foundation's efforts, including grantmaking, advocacy, collaboration, leadership, and education, will focus on stabilizing families, helping with unexpected circumstances that cause stress, providing basic needs and transportation, preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in children, obtaining affordable quality childcare, and aiding in navigating systems that are already in place to provide supports and subsidies.





# Need

## PREPARING FOR AN AGING POPULATION

Frederick County increasingly has an older population. Today's senior population in Frederick County differs from the seniors of the recent past, and tomorrow's senior population will differ from today's, due to demographic, economic, and social forces. Not only is the number of people over 65 years in age rapidly increasing, but the diversity, social, and economic situation of seniors is changing.



The key findings about supporting an aging population in Frederick County are:

- ❖ Frederick County has a lower proportion of elderly than Maryland and the U.S.
- ❖ The elderly population is growing about three times the rate of the overall population of the County.
- ❖ Not only are there proportionately more older people, but the elderly are living longer. The need for services is increasing in breadth and depth.
- ❖ Elderly persons in Frederick County need transportation, assistance for aging in place, access to medical providers specializing in geriatrics, and treatment for substance use disorder.
- ❖ As is the case nationwide, the aging population in the County is not saving enough to support the cost of retirement.



## THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S RESPONSE:

Beginning in FY2020, the Community Foundation's focus on preparing for an aging population includes these strategic initiatives:

- ◆ Help individuals over 60 years to age in place in an appropriate environment through:
  - ◆ Housing modifications
  - ◆ Door-to-door transportation
  - ◆ In-home services
- ◆ Provide education on aging issues for
  - ◆ Current seniors (age 60+)
  - ◆ Rising seniors (those approaching age 60)
  - ◆ Caregivers

The Community Foundation's efforts, including grantmaking, advocacy, collaboration, leadership, and education, will focus on navigating systems that are in place to benefit the health and welfare of Frederick County's seniors, providing respite care for caregivers, facilitating transportation, fostering safe living environments, sponsoring opportunities for socialization and recreation, and offering health and nutrition services.





# Need

## SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is a behavioral health disorder that affects millions in the United States, involving heavy use of alcohol and/or drugs. It is an issue that has grown in prevalence in recent years with rising rates of fatalities from opioids. One-third of key informants interviewed in Frederick County explicitly named SUD as a top issue in the County. However, while all communities in the United States are thought to be impacted by SUD, limited quantitative data exists on local areas including counties.



The key findings about substance use disorder in Frederick County are:

- ◆ Like the nation and comparable counties, Frederick County is coping with SUD including less visible but much more prevalent alcohol abuse.
- ◆ SUD often co-occurs with mental health challenges.
- ◆ Frederick County is participating in effective practices with respect to offering Drug Court and first responders carrying Narcan (since 2014).
- ◆ Medical and mental health services for persons with SUD are undersupplied in the County (there is no residential treatment facility and no free-standing detox facility).
- ◆ Few SUD practitioners accept Medicaid.
- ◆ Transportation issues are preventing access to treatment.
- ◆ A “stabilization center” would take advantage of the narrow window of opportunity to intervene successfully in treating SUD (especially for opioid use).



## THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S RESPONSE:

Beginning in FY2020, the Community Foundation's focus on substance use disorder includes these strategic initiatives:

- ◆ Support timely access to local qualified providers.
- ◆ Provide education and prevention programs.
- ◆ Collect appropriate data to be used in decision making.

The Community Foundation's efforts, including grantmaking, advocacy, collaboration, leadership, and education, will focus on the expansion and sustainment of current successful programs and the development of new programs that fill gaps in services, mobile crisis responses and satellite services to help people where they are located, comprehensive and integrative services, crisis stabilization, substance specific education and risk assessment evaluations, and the collection and sharing of meaningful data.



# Other

## AREAS OF CONCERN

The following concerns intersect with all three of the identified community needs in the 2018 Human Needs Assessment:



### NEED: AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

- ◆ A lack of affordable housing and student loan debt puts additional financial pressures on families with children.
- ◆ Housing including accommodations for aging in place.
- ◆ Affordable housing places financial pressures on all individuals that fall within ALICE.



### NEED: TRANSPORTATION:

- ◆ Transportation to help families with children.
- ◆ Elderly persons in Frederick County need transportation, assistance for aging in place, access to medical providers specializing in geriatrics, and treatment for substance use disorder.
- ◆ Transportation for persons seeking treatment.



### NEED: DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- ◆ As Frederick County becomes more diverse, issues of inclusion and social acceptance require more urgent attention.
- ◆ Frederick County is one of the unique localities in the U.S. that does not constitute a political “bubble” where most of the residents vote the same way and share similar ideologies.
- ◆ Frederick County is becoming more diverse but lags behind the State of Maryland and the United States.

## THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S RESPONSE:

While these cross-cutting issues were not deemed the most pressing, they are important to monitor and assess. The Community Foundation will pay particular attention to affordable housing, transportation, and diversity and inclusion as they affect Frederick County's efforts to support families with children, prepare for an aging population, and respond to substance use disorder.

### CONCLUSION

The Community Foundation is embarking on establishing a flexible and sizable endowment fund to prepare for the future.

The Forever Frederick County campaign will create funds to provide grants based on Frederick County's most pressing needs as determined by the 2018 Human Needs Assessment and similar studies going forward. This will help ensure the Community Foundation's ability to be proactive and nimble as our community evolves. To learn more about the Forever Frederick County campaign, please contact Laura McCullough, Director of Philanthropic Services at [l.mccullough@FrederickCountyGives.org](mailto:l.mccullough@FrederickCountyGives.org) or by phone at 301.695.7660.

In addition to the strategically-based grants focused on families with children, the aging population, and substance use disorder, the Community Foundation will continue to provide grants using unrestricted funds and other funds entrusted to it for grantmaking. The Board of Trustees is also dedicated to continuing to support the arts, the environment, historic preservation, animal welfare, education, health and human services, civic causes, faith-based organizations, community programs and scholarships for deserving students.

*For Good. Forever.  
For Frederick County.*





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312 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701  
(301) 695-7660 • [www.FrederickCountyGives.org](http://www.FrederickCountyGives.org)