2021 Community Needs Summary

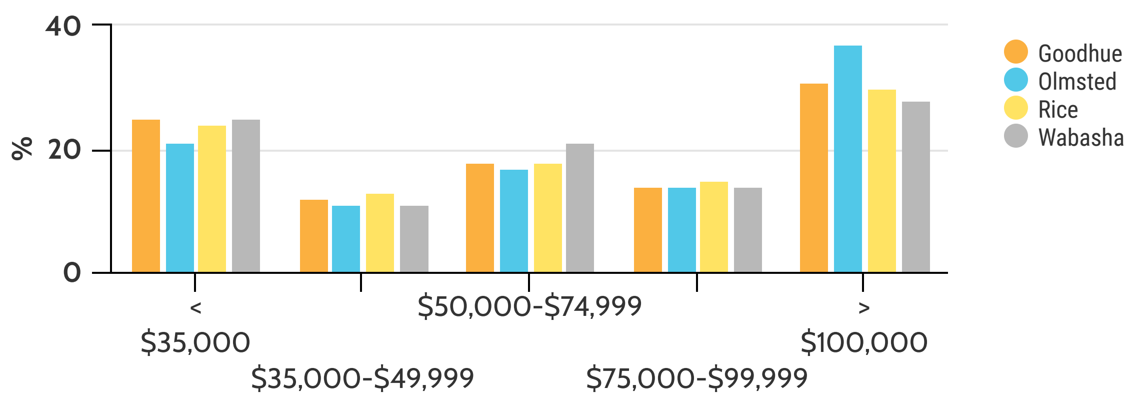
Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. conducted a community needs assessment between August 2021 and November 2021. The needs assessment was designed to meet the agency's funding requirements and inform decisions about programs and services offered by Three Rivers in its service area. The needs assessment included four key activities: 1) Surveys of customers (clients) and community partners; 2) Focus groups for Head Start parents and target populations less likely to complete the survey; 3) Review of publicly available data on needs and resources in the counties and communities served by the agency and 4) Key informant interviews focusing on needs of older adults.

REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

	Population	% Person of Color	Disability	Median Age	College educated (at some level)	Unemployment Rate*
Goodhue	46,340	8%	13	42.2	73%	2.1%
Olmsted	158,293	20%	11	37.2	73%	2.1%
Rice	66,972	18%	11	36.5	63%	2.2%
Wabasha	21,627	5%	16	45.2	60%	1.9%

All data from the American Community Survey (ACS) Data Set, 2019 unless otherwise noted.
* DEED, Labor Market Information office, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, October 2021

Household Income



Persons living at or below 100% of poverty

	Percent of persons	Under 18 years old	Under 5 years old	Over 65 years old
Goodhue	9.3%	13.3%	13.2%	7%
Olmsted	8.4%	10.4%	10.1%	5.5%
Rice	9.2%	13.3%	13.4%	7.8%
Wabasha	7.7%	8.5%	7.5%	5.7%

ACS Data Set, 2019 unless otherwise noted.

WHAT WE LEARNED

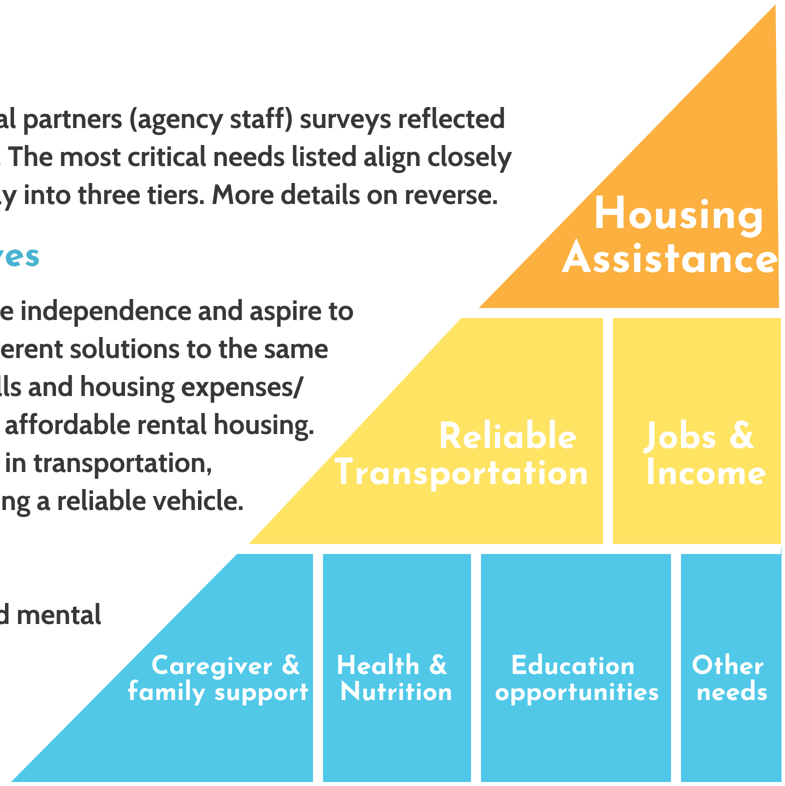
Needs & priorities

Across the Three Rivers service area, residents and local partners (agency staff) surveys reflected common themes in the needs and priorities identified. The most critical needs listed align closely with recent data on trends in the region and fall roughly into three tiers. More details on reverse.

Customers vs. local partner perspectives

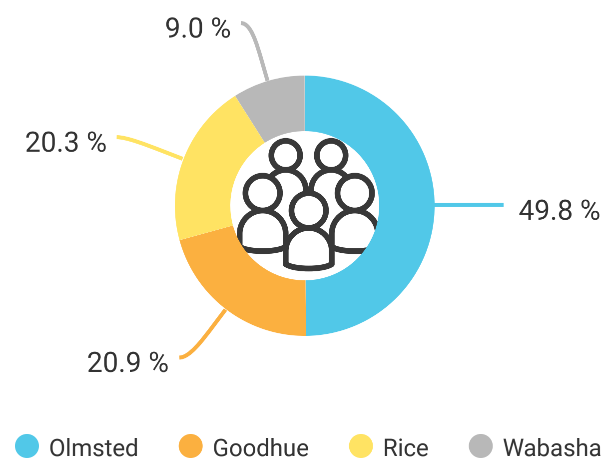
In general, customers prioritized options that maximize independence and aspire to middle class ideals. Local partners often identified different solutions to the same need. In housing, customers noted need with utility bills and housing expenses/ repairs while agency staff prioritized access to quality, affordable rental housing. Older adults need chore services to stay at home. And in transportation, customers highly ranked car repairs and help purchasing a reliable vehicle. Local partners, instead prioritized access to transit.

COVID-related impacts include isolation and increased mental health needs.



WHO WE LEARNED FROM

987 Customer Responses
from almost 50 cities and townships within four counties



Compared to our region, more respondents were female, were much more likely to rent their home, less likely to graduate from high school or have college education, and slightly more likely to be a person of color. English was the primary language at home for 94% of survey respondents.

149 Local Partners representing 24 types of services including primary health care, homeless assistance, local government services, real estate, employment programs, senior services, and schools.

6 Focus Groups targeting Head Start parents, Hispanic community, Somali community, older adults and people with insecure housing.

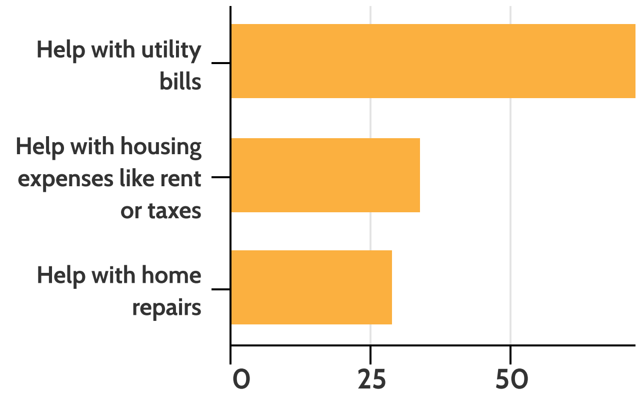
10 Key Informant Interviews of providers for older adults in the four-county area.

#1 Need: Housing Assistance

The highest housing related needs identified in customer surveys were the same for all four counties: help paying for utilities, repair, and housing expenses. Access to quality, affordable rental housing was identified as a critical need by a majority of partners for all four counties.

Aspects of tenant advocacy were identified in four focus groups, including concern for retaliation by landlords.

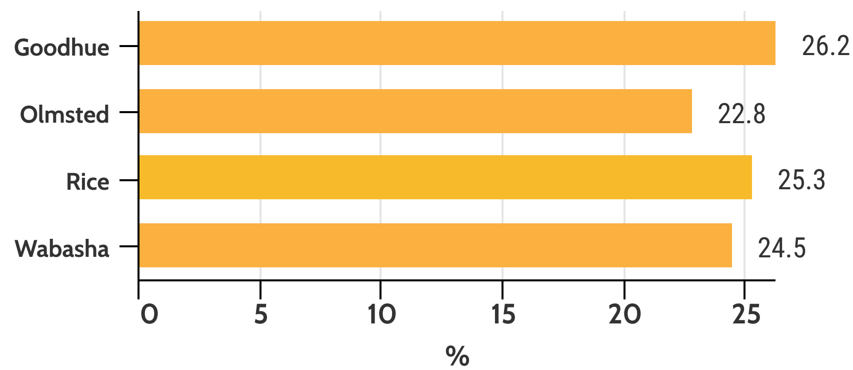
Top 3 Customer Housing Needs



The 2020 National Homeless count was completed just before the start of the 2020 COVID-19 Global Pandemic. Between 2007 and 2020, Minnesota has seen an:

- 8% increase of the homeless population
- 6% increase of chronic homeless populations
- 21% decrease of family homeless populations
- 45% increase of individuals

Percentage of Cost-burdened Households



Cost-burdened households pay more than 30% of income on housing as defined by HUD American Community Survey (ACS) Data Set, 2019 unless otherwise noted.

Within the Continuum of Care (CoC), Rochester Southeast Minnesota, with 459 persons counted (6.2% per 10,000 persons) has seen an:

- 3% increase of the homeless population
- 88% increase of chronic homeless population
- 21% decrease of family homeless populations
- 53% increase of individual homeless population

	Median Sales Price	Change from last year	Months Supply
Lake City	255000	+11.4%	1.4
Pine Island	305000	+17.1	1.8
Plainview	216450	+15.9%	0.6
Rochester	290000	+12%	1.3
Stewartville	247250	+6.3%	0.8
Wabasha	228,500	+24.5%	0.8
Zumbrota	271000	+14.5%	1.1

Southeast Minnesota REALTORS® and NorthstarMLS®, current as of November 4, 2021

#2 Needs:

Reliable Transportation

Local partners prioritized access to transit above other transportation needs, but customers focused on having a reliable car or helping with repairs, which impacts maintaining a job, finding a better job, or transporting children. According to key informant interviews, many older adults prefer more flexible, short-notice transportation options.

Customers (40%)	Partners (54%)
Car Repair	Access to Transit

Income and Jobs

Of those surveyed who said it was a need, having enough money for basic needs was the highest ranked need for those surveyed customers (37%) and partners (59%). Both groups agreed on the second highest need of job opportunities with higher wages. Having enough money impacts housing, transportation, nutrition as well as other interrelated needs.

#3 Needs:

Health & Nutrition

More than two thirds of surveyed partners identified mental health as a critical need. Access to health care as well as substance abuse and addiction recovery were also identified as critical needs by partners. Surveyed customers prioritized access to good food, which was identified as critical by twenty nine percent of partners.

Caregiver & Family Supports

Surveyed customers ranked chore services as highest need for older adults. Key informant interviews prioritized in-home support services for older adults. Surveyed partners prioritized local access to affordable, quality day care, including part time and nontraditional hours. One third of partners ranked support caregivers as critical.

Educational Opportunities

Surveyed customers ranked financial literacy education highest, followed by programs for youth (tutoring, mentoring, and community building). Partners ranked these youth programs highest with services for children with disabilities and financial education following close behind. Almost sixty percent of households with children under 5 use childcare and ranked cost as the biggest challenge.

Other Needs

Approximately one in four surveyed customers need basic household supplies and/or holiday gifts. One in five need clothing and/or tax preparation.

One in five partners identified tax preparation and/or legal aid most often as other critical needs.

Half of customers surveyed identified isolation and mental health challenges as the biggest household impact of COVID.

ThreeRivers COMMUNITY ACTION
People-focused, community-driven

Three Rivers Community Action is a nonprofit human service organization created by local citizens and incorporated in 1966. Three Rivers' mission is “to work with community partners to address basic human needs of people in our service area, thereby improving the quality of life of the individual, family and community.” Learn more at www.threeriverscap.org