

2020 FACT SHEET

For 01/01/2019 through 12/31/2019



PUEBLO COUNTY NEEDS*

While many great achievements have occurred in our Pueblo County, the 2018 median household income (MHI) of \$44,634 is over 29% lower than the U.S. average and 47% lower than the Colorado average. Pueblo County families exceed state averages in all levels of public assistance. It is reported that over 24% of Pueblo County residents experience poverty. Wages have not kept pace with the rising cost of living and the middle class in our community has gotten smaller while our lower and upper classes have increased. The Colorado Children's Campaign lists the Pueblo County child poverty rate at over 21%, with more than 40% living in single parent homes. Sixteen percent (16%) of Pueblo County residents receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Pueblo County is ranked 4th in the state of Colorado in the number of homeless students. Over 4% of our children are victims of child abuse, and senior citizens in poverty has now reached over 11%.

* From: Bell Policy Center, Colorado Trust, Data USA, Dept. of Numbers, U.S. Census and the University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs

THE FACE OF POVERTY

Transients, homeless (individuals and families) and many others are challenged and share the face of poverty. A staggering number of Pueblo County residents don't have adequate financial resources to meet their most basic needs. People are forced to make impossible choices, some must decide to put food on the table or purchase medical prescriptions. Others must choose to either pay the rent, the utilities or to find a less expensive place to live. Some have to decide if they want to hold on to their home and many just lose the battle. Many senior citizens have challenges simply because of aging, and the long-standing belief that Social Security, Medicare, or old-age pensions meets their basic needs is inaccurate. Social safety nets are no longer enough, and the guarantee of financial security no longer exists. Poverty is often hidden from sight, it disguises its anguish and many of our very own neighbors suffer in silence.



Poverty is also a health issue that manifests itself in many ways. Food insecurity, lack of transportation, unaffordable or inadequate housing, unclean living conditions, social isolation and loneliness lead to increased cases of diabetes, depression, heart disease and other illnesses. These lead to rising healthcare costs, which reduces financial resources and perpetuates a downward spiral.

How do these issues get fixed? At Pueblo Cooperative Care Center, we pray and have the courage to engage with people and see them not as failures, but by recognizing they are in unique situations. Some are rooted in a lack of education, poor choices or social indifference; others just need to know someone cares and can offer some form of assistance. We are called to do this as God's servants – LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL.

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

We offer our services with a sense of urgency because we know that when social supports fail the results are typically significantly worse. We know that poverty is not limited to any race, gender, group or social class; and it can impact people whose faces are not always those visualized or suspected. We bear the burdens of many, and we strive to extend a sense of love, hope and purpose. In 2019, the services provided to individuals increased by 2% in new clients, 2% in homeless, 6% in new households and 73% in food distributions. We initiated a temporary homeless shower program and in 2020 we are taking on more challenges with our homeless Mobile Shower and Laundry program, and a new program to distribute foods to individuals who are homebound entitled: *Nutrition On Wheels* or **now**.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

We welcome you to partner with us at any level you are comfortable.

Join Us!

Along with the implementation of new programs comes increased needs. Consider joining our mission and please pray for our success. Stop by and take a tour, volunteer for a program, advocate for people in need or just share in God's love and grace. We accept monetary contributions and donations of food, clothing, personal and oral hygiene items. If you prefer, help us with your unique own skills as we likely have an immediate need. Pueblo Cooperative Care Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all contributions are tax deductible. Monetary donations greater than \$250 qualify for a 25% State of Colorado *Enterprise Zone* tax credit.

**WE DO SOMETHING EVERY DAY THAT BRINGS PEOPLE CLOSER TO A BETTER TOMORROW – WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
TOGETHER – WE CAN BRING ABOUT CHANGE!**