

## Introduction

United Way of Becker County commissioned this report to help community partners understand the degree to which area leaders believe each community asset exists in Becker County and the relative importance of each asset in developing strong, vibrant, and healthy communities. The areas to be included in the survey were identified by a wide array of individuals and groups throughout Becker County including housing, human services, employment, health, nutrition, transportation, and education.

### **Three-Step Process:**

United Way of Becker County project utilizes a three-step process that leads to continuous evaluation and improvements.

1. The survey results define where we are and how we are doing relative to key community assets that describe various aspects about Becker County.
2. Community Leader input and perception was gathered through an on-line survey. This information, when combined with quantifiable data, provides a basis for setting community goals or priorities.
3. The document serves as a guide to help mobilize action and improve life in Becker County. In addition, the report will be used to encourage discussion, create momentum, and initiate change on a broad county-wide level.

As this is United Way of Becker County's first report, it is anticipated that this document will create a foundation for United Way Board of Directors to begin the national United Way model of Community Impact which is defined as "Improving lives by mobilizing communities to create lasting changes in community conditions."

The following table represents what community leaders identified as the top priorities:

Rank	Issue/Need Identified
1	Quality, affordable childcare is available for sick care, night shifts, etc.
2	Children and youth have access to quality, nutritious meals according to recommended dietary guidelines during the summer.
3	Dental care is accessible to all adults and children.
4	Mental health services are accessible to all adults.
5	Mental health services are accessible to all children and youth.
6	Affordable housing is available for all families.
7	Quality, affordable childcare is available.
8	Residents do NOT experience any form of discrimination (ethnic, racial, age, sex, disability, economic level, etc.) as a citizen of Becker County.
9	Respite care is available for someone taking care of an elderly or disabled person.
10	Employment opportunities are available for all youth that would like to have a job.

Please refer to the appendix for the detailed survey results for all 41 asset categories.

## Community Partnerships – Interaction Section:

Sixty percent of individuals surveyed indicated they strongly agree (11%) to agree (49%) that Becker County is a place where leaders from business, labor, education, and all other sectors work productively to address community issues. Similarly, 56% of respondents indicated Becker County is a place where social and religious organizations interact to address pressing social concerns. One out of three respondents indicated that they agree Becker County is a place where social service agencies are meeting the needs of families, neighborhoods, and communities, while another 34% remain neutral about this statement. When asked if Becker County is a community where the political process promotes participation from community members, 33% of the survey respondents agreed with this statement, while 34% remain neutral about how Becker County promotes participation in the political process.

The following two questions asked respondents to rate Becker County as a place to live and work. Please review the overall breakdown of the categories for each question in the following information:

Overall, how would you rate Becker County as a place to live?

Excellent	18%
<b>Good</b>	<b>62%</b>
Fair	17%
Poor	2%
Decline to Answer	1%

Overall, how would you rate Becker County as a place to work?

Excellent	12%
<b>Good</b>	<b>51%</b>
Fair	29%
Poor	7%
Decline to Answer	1%

Please note: This report will be available to area organizations and businesses that provide philanthropic resources to address community needs and issues in the Becker County area.

## Methods

### The Survey:

The researchers collected quantitative data from community leaders through the administration of an on-line survey process as well as secondary data review at the state and county level. There were six major areas of focus for this research:

- Housing
- Human services
- Employment
- Health
- Transportation
- Education

Participants were instructed to review the list of community assets and asked to rate how well the county performs with regard to developing the community assets. Secondly, participants then were asked to indicate how important the community assets are in developing strong, vibrant and healthy communities. Additional questions related to quality of life and living, were also included in the survey.

The researchers sent 1,004 initial emails containing the survey link to individuals, agencies, and businesses throughout the Becker County area. When the email link was sent, it contained a request to share with staff or other interested persons. Follow-up email requests were sent in a blanket approach, since the response to the surveys was anonymous. A total of 217 survey responses were received.

A total of 217 community leaders participated in the assessment and self-identified themselves in at least one of the following:

- Business Leader – 31.4%
- Educator – 28.4%
- Law Enforcement – 2%
- Elected Official – 4.9%
- Clergy or Religious Leader – 2.9%
- Social Services Provider – 13.7%
- Health Care Leader – 18.6%
- Community Leader/Volunteer – 35.3%
- Student Leader – 2.5%
- Other – 4.4%

Once the survey results were complete, the researchers applied a statistical technique that considered the average mean of the performance and importance scale for each community asset to appropriately rank order the community assets of greatest priority.

### **The Secondary Data:**

The secondary data were obtained through websites, paper copies of data sources from local agencies, i.e. White Earth Community Health Profile (2003), Becker County Community Health Board, List of Local Issues and Priorities for 2005-2009, Mahube Community Council Community Needs Assessment (2006), and data from other agencies.

Several of these local sources provided an insight into the priority areas identified by consumers/clients/patients of the participating agencies. For example, Mahube Community Council surveyed 400 low-income and elderly households in Becker County with an overall return rate of 29.3% (Individual return rates: Senior citizens 42.5%; non-senior adults without children 21%; families with children 24%). This is a constituency the researchers did not have direct access to; however, they did have access to the aggregate data.

The researchers chose several databases kept at the local, state, and national level, i.e. Census Bureau. The chosen websites were visited, and relevant statistical information that was available was downloaded. These data were then analyzed, summarized, and compiled according to priority community asset areas. The secondary data is outlined in the following section beginning on page five of this final report.

The secondary data reviewed provides strong evidence confirming what survey respondents identified as priority assets of a strong, vibrant, and healthy community. Additionally, in certain instances there was no secondary data that could be found to support the perceptions of the participants.

Please note: It is also important to acknowledge that there is simply too much information and raw data regarding community priorities in circulation to be located and analyzed within the scope of this project.

## **Becker County – Demographic Information**

### **Becker County Overview:**

Becker County is a mid-size county located in northwestern Minnesota. The county seat is Detroit Lakes. A portion of the White Earth Indian Reservation is located in the county, and close to 17% of the county's children is American Indian.

Becker County had a per capita personal income of \$26,540 in 2003, which ranked forty-fourth in the state, and grew by an annual average of close to 6% between 1993 and 2003, faster than the state's growth rate. The county's 2004 unemployment rate was 5.6%, compared to the state's rate of 4.7%.

Fifteen percent of Becker County families live in poverty. According to Minnesota Kids Count, concerns for Becker County indicate that the county is among the highest in the rate of children living in poverty (6<sup>th</sup> among Minnesota's counties). Becker County also has a higher percentage of children in out-of-home placement than the state average.

### **Becker County Population:**

Birth – 4 years	1,984	
5 – 19 years	6,895	
20 – 29 years	2,923	
30 – 54 years	11,519	Total Population: 31,813
55 – 64 years	3,574	Total Households: 12,773
65 – Over	4,918	Est. Population 2004: 31,817*

### **Population by Race:**

White	89.4%	
Hispanic	.8%	
Black	.02%	
American Indian	7.5%	Total Minority Population: 11%
Asian	.4%	(Note: Some people counted in more than one race)
Other/Mixed	2.5%	

Source: 2000 Census, Minnesota Planning Center, 2006

\*Estimate according to Children's Defense Fund, "Kids Count Minnesota"

**Education:**

Four independent school districts are located wholly or in part in Becker County. In addition to the independent school districts, there are several faith-based private schools, primarily in the early elementary grades, and a BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) School – Circle of Life, located on the White Earth Reservation. The following 2006 education data relates specifically to the four independent school districts and was obtained through the Minnesota Department of Education:

	ISD #22 Detroit Lakes	ISD #23 Frazee- Vergas	ISD #2889 LP/A	ISD #25 Pine Point
K through 12 Enrollment	2,649	1,113	653	69
Free and Reduced Lunch	35%	42%	36%	97%
Graduation Rates	89%	96%	93%	(K-8)
Special Education	16%	16%	10%	20%

Becker County has less than 1% Limited English Speaking Students and 12% (328) student mobility. According to Children’s Defense Fund “Minnesota Kids Count,” Becker County has a high percentage of participation in the school lunch program by eligible children.

**Community  
Survey  
Top Ten  
Priorities  
&  
Community Issue  
Statistical Profile**

**1. Quality, affordable child care is available for sick care, night shifts, etc.**

<b>Current Community Conditions Related to Issue</b>	<b>Data Source</b>
<p><b>Overview of Child Care Providers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a total of 1,321 licensed child care slots (all ages) in Becker County. This includes center-based services as well as family providers.</li> <li>• There is no sick child care provider currently operating in Becker County. The regulations regarding sick child care would prevent the service being offered in a family day care setting. If this service is offered, it is generally done through a “Nanny” program where someone would go to the home of the sick child.</li> <li>• Becker County Child Care Licensing Coordinator indicates that there is very little evening child care available; night care is a significant issue in the county; and there is possibly one provider at this time. She noted past providers have failed to comply with the additional night-time regulations prompting their closure.</li> <li>• 22% of agencies surveyed by Mahube indicated that finding the right kind of child care (including care such as sick child, non-standard hours, night time, care for disabled children) was a significant issue for clients.</li> </ul>	<p>Child Care Resource &amp; Referral, Moorhead, MN 2006</p> <p>Child Care Resource &amp; Referral, Moorhead, MN 2006</p> <p>Becker County Human Services, Joni Hutchinson, 2006</p>
<p><b>Population</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Children living in Becker County Birth to 4 years: 1,984</li> <li>• Number of Children living in Becker County 5-19 years: 6,895</li> <li>• Approximately 70% of children in Minnesota have working mothers. Safe, consistent child care is essential in order to ensure parents are able to work and children are cared for in an appropriate environment.</li> </ul>	<p>2000 Census, Minnesota Planning Center, 2006</p> <p>Mahube Community Council Community Needs Assessment 2006</p>
<p><b>Employment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area’s largest employer (St. Mary’s Regional Health Center) requires a 24 hour work schedule as do a number of manufacturing and service-related industries in the area.</li> </ul>	<p>No specific data, general knowledge of area.</p>
<p><b>Cost of Child Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infant Age: \$20.35 average daily rate; \$2.04 average hourly rate.</li> <li>• Toddler Age: \$20.35 average daily rate; \$2.04 average hourly rate.</li> <li>• Preschool Age: \$20.35 average daily rate; \$2.04 average hourly rate.</li> <li>• School Age: \$20.00 average daily rate; \$2.04 average hourly rate.</li> </ul>	<p>Minnesota Child Care Resource &amp; Referral Rate Survey, Dec. 2005</p>

**2. Children and youth have access to quality, nutritious meals according to recommended dietary guidelines during the summer.**

Current Community Conditions Related to Issue	Data Source
<p><b>Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boys &amp; Girls Club has 105 children currently signed up for the 2006 summer program (a significant increase from previous years) and anticipates feeding 50-60 children on a daily basis throughout the summer breakfast, lunch and a snack.</li> <li>• DL Summer Recreation Program – Closed from 12:00 to 1:00 pm during the traditional lunch hour. Many participants are responsible for getting lunch on their own at local eating establishments in the area (Subway, Giovanni’s), going home to fix their own lunch, or getting picked up by a parent or guardian for lunch.</li> <li>• Becker County is seeing an increase in the number of children who do not experience a nurturing and supportive family environment due to inadequate or ineffectual parenting.</li> <li>• The Journal of the American Medical Association reported a study based on data from 10,800 youngsters ages 12 to 17 who participated in four nationally representative health surveys conducted from 1971 to 2004 where the researchers determined poverty levels using family income and the U.S. Census Bureau’s poverty threshold: In the early 1970s, about 4% of poor youngsters ages 15-17 were severely overweight, compared with about 5% of teens who weren’t poor. By the early 2000s, those rates jumped to 23% of the poor and 14% of other kids, the researchers said. Adam Drewnowski, a University of Washington researcher, said the disparity will persist unless the underlying problem, poverty, is also addressed.</li> <li>• Of 400 low-income families and elderly surveyed in Becker County, 26% of families with children; 51% of non-senior citizens; and 20% of senior citizens indicated they need increased access and usage of the Food Shelf.</li> <li>• Food stamps average monthly utilization: 1,211</li> <li>• Average monthly WIC participants: 1,774</li> <li>• Free &amp; Reduced School Lunch participation: 1,740</li> <li>• Single Person Household Average Monthly Cost of Food: \$211</li> <li>• 2 Parent household with 2 children Average Monthly Cost of Food: \$555</li> </ul>	<p>Boys &amp; Girls Club of Detroit Lakes, Executive Director</p> <p>DL Summer Recreation Program</p> <p>Becker County Board of Health, 2005-2009 Priorities</p> <p>Journal of American Medical Association, Tuesday, May 23, 2006</p> <p>Mahube Community Council Community Needs Assessment 2006</p> <p>Minnesota Depart. of Health Profiles; Minnesota Kids Count 2005</p>

<b>Population</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minnesota has the highest percentage of school children left home alone after school (40%), nearly double the national average of 24%, according to two studies.</li><li>• There are 6,895 children ages 5-19 residing in Becker County.</li></ul>	Urban Institute Study; After School Alliance Study 2000 Census, Minnesota Planning Center, 2006
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**3. Dental Care is accessible to all adults and children.**

<b>Current Community Conditions Related to Issue</b>	<b>Data Source</b>
<p><b>Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child &amp; Adolescent Growth &amp; Development: Increase in number of children who are experiencing developmental delays related to undetected vision, hearing, speech, language, <b>dental</b>, lead exposure and developmental problems.</li> <li>• 159 agencies in Becker, Mahnomen &amp; Hubbard Counties were surveyed, with 77 responding (48.4% response rate). Of those responding, 47% indicated a community need “to find a dentist in our community who accepts Medical Assistance/Minnesota Care” for their clients.</li> <li>• 400 low-income families and elderly were surveyed with 22% of families with children; 24% of non-senior citizens; and 49% of senior citizens indicating they have a need to find a dentist who accepts Medical Assistance/Minnesota Care as a source of payment.</li> <li>• Physicians in both clinics and the emergency room report: a) no emergency dental coverage for traumas, etc.; b) patients on Medical Assistance have no local dental care access and must wait for an appointment in Hawley; c) patients present to the ER or clinics complaining they can’t get in with a local dentist for days and have a tooth abscess that requires treatment; d) the community needs a strategy for addressing the dental needs of low-income/Medical Assistance patients and on-call dental needs.</li> </ul>	<p>Becker County Community Health Board, 2005-2009 Priorities</p> <p>Mahube Community Council, Community Needs Assessment 2006</p> <p>Mahube Community Council, Community Needs Assessment 2006</p> <p>12/9/05 Dental Care Access meeting convened by St. Mary’s Regional Health Center with Physician and Dentist participation.</p>
<p><b>Population</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uninsured</li> <li>• Underinsured</li> <li>• On Medical Assistance (MA)</li> </ul>	<p>Becker County Community Health Board, 2005-2009 Priorities</p>

#### 4. Mental health services are accessible to all adults.

Current Community Conditions Related to Issue	Data Source
<p><b>Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared Care Psychiatry Model is a collaborative program that has received statewide recognition as an innovative strategy in increasing access to psychiatric services. The program is a collaborative between Dakota and MeritCare Clinics, Becker County Human Services, Lakeland Mental Health Center and St. Mary’s Regional Health Center. The program operates on grants and billable hours.</li> <li>• Minnesota Consortium for Advanced Rural Psychology Training (MCARPT) is a new post-doctoral training program that will put a Ph.D. level psychologist in eleven community agencies over a two-year period of time to provide mental health services at that site on a rotational basis. The goal of the program is to increase retention of rural mental health professionals and thereby increase access to mental health services on a consistent basis for rural residents. The program is grant-dependent at this time.</li> <li>• Increased incidence of mental health problems (i.e. depression, suicide, mental illness, eating disorders, and at-risk behaviors due to inability to cope with stressors, lack of life skills and loss of a positive attitude toward life.</li> <li>• People with mental health concerns/needs are being overlooked by agencies; especially if they are uninsured, underinsured, have high co-pays or are waiting to receive Minnesota Care.</li> <li>• Of 400 low-income families and senior citizens surveyed, 33% of families with children; 45% of non-senior citizens; and 26% of senior citizens indicate they have a need for affordable health insurance.</li> </ul>	<p>Shared Care Psychiatry Program, Detroit Lakes</p> <p>Minnesota Consortium for Advanced Rural Psychology Training (MCARPT) Program, Detroit Lakes</p> <p>Becker County Community Health Board, 2005-2009 Priorities Becker County Community Health Board, 2005-2009 Priorities</p> <p>Mahube Community Council, Community Needs Assessment 2006</p>
<p><b>Population</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uninsured</li> <li>• Underinsured</li> <li>• High Co-pays if have insurance</li> <li>• People waiting to receive Minnesota Care</li> </ul>	<p>Becker County Community Health Board, 2005-2009 Priorities</p>

**5. Mental health services are accessible to all children and youth.**

Current Community Conditions Related to Issue	Data Source
<p><b>Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Becker County Children Abused/Neglected (rate per 1,000): 152</li> <li>• Becker County Children in out-of-home placement (rate per 1,000): 176</li> <li>• Of agencies surveyed by Mahube serving low-income families and elderly, they reported the following on behalf of those they serve: 58% have a need for finding affordable health insurance; 35% identify the need for a child to be matched with an adult mentor (Big Brother/Big Sister, Kinship, etc.); 31% indicate a need for obtaining mental health services for children; and 19% indicate a need for support groups for children with a disability.</li> <li>• LAC (Local Advisory Council) and LCC (Local Coordinating Council) are facilitated by Becker County Human Services and include parents and area providers identifying mental health needs of children and available resources.</li> <li>• IEIC (Interagency Early Intervention Committee) is a collaboration of school districts, Head Start, White Earth Reservation and other programs designed to identify early childhood needs, including mental health issues.</li> <li>• MeritCare Clinic in Detroit Lakes employs a full time Child Psychologist</li> <li>• Lakeland Mental Health Center employs mental health workers specializing in play therapy and children’s mental health</li> <li>• Lutheran Social Services provides intensive in-home therapy services for families.</li> <li>• Lakes Crisis &amp; Resource Center, Children’s Services provides services to children who have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused, neglected or who have witnessed abuse.</li> <li>• Becker County Human Services provides legally mandated services to abused and at-risk children.</li> </ul>	<p>Minnesota Kids Count, 2005</p> <p>Minnesota Kids Count, 2005</p> <p>Mahube Community Council, Community Needs Assessment, 2006</p> <p>General knowledge of function of group.</p> <p>General knowledge of function of group.</p> <p>MeritCare Clinic</p> <p>Lakeland Mental Health Center</p> <p>Lutheran Social Services</p> <p>Lakes Crisis &amp; Resource Center</p> <p>Becker County Human Services</p>

**6. Affordable housing is available for all families.**

<b>Current Community Conditions Related to Issue</b>			<b>Data Source</b>
<b>Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Becker County Fair Market Rent: \$457</li> <li>• Becker County Median Home Value \$93,500</li> </ul>			Housing Minnesota, 2005
<b>Renting Households Paying over 30% of Income in Rent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	Housing Minnesota, 2005
Less than \$19,000	708	59%	
\$20,000 - \$34,999	31	5.6%	
\$35,000 - \$49,999	0	0%	
\$50,000 – Over	0	0%	
<b>Home Owners Paying over 30% of Income for Ownership Costs</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	Housing Minnesota, 2005
Less than \$19,000	515	48.4%	
\$20,000 - \$34,999	207	20.3%	
\$35,000 - \$49,999	144	11.9%	
\$50,000 – Over	129	5.9%	
<b>Housing Units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Units Owned: 9,534 (80.5%)</li> <li>• Housing Units Rented: 2,310 (19.5%)</li> <li>• Total Housing Units: 11,844</li> <li>• Households with children under age 18: 3,926 (33.1%)</li> <li>• Households with individuals over age 65: 4,918 (41.5%)</li> </ul>			Minnesota State Planning Agency, 2005
<b>Utility Costs</b> are rising for families due to the increase in energy costs. Home heating sources are costs often not included in affordability measures. This information shows the complexity of the energy assistance issue.			Mahube Community Council Community Needs Assessment 2006
<b>Home Heating Sources</b>	<b># of Homes</b>	<b>% of Homes</b>	Mahube Community Council Community Needs Assessment 2006
Total Homes	11,844	100%	
Utility Gas	3,215	27.1	
Bottled/tank/or LP gas	3,339	28.2	
Electricity	2,361	19.9	
Fuel oil/kerosene, etc.	1,604	13.5	
Coal	0	0	
Wood	1,225	10.3	
Solar energy	2	0	
Other fuel	65	.5	
No fuel used	33	.3	

<p><b>Homelessness</b></p> <p>Specific data on Becker County homelessness was not found by the researchers. Regional homelessness data has been compiled for West Central Minnesota, of which Becker County is a part.</p>	
<p><b>Homeless children and youth in West Central Minnesota:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of children or unaccompanied youth experienced homelessness on any given night: 68</li> <li>• Percent of homeless women had children under age 17: 66%</li> <li>• Percent of homeless men had children under age 17: 38%</li> <li>• Homeless youth enrolled in school: 83%</li> <li>• Youth experiencing homelessness that had been physically or sexually abused: 46%</li> </ul> <p><b>Many people experiencing homelessness face significant challenges, others are simply struggling to make ends meet:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeless adults unemployed: 67%</li> <li>• Homeless adults (and homeless women) reported they had stayed in an abusive relationship because they had nowhere else to live: 30% of adults; 47% of women</li> <li>• Homeless adults reported a significant mental health problem in the past 12 months: 46%</li> <li>• Homeless adults have less than a high school education: 27%</li> <li>• Homeless adults have completed high school or a GED: 44%</li> <li>• Homeless adults have some amount of post-secondary education: 29%</li> <li>• Households reported being homeless for a year or more: 35%</li> <li>• Percent having lived in institutional arrangements: 78%</li> <li>• Recently left correctional facility without a stable place to live when they left: 73%</li> <li>• Leaving other kinds of institutions without a stable place to live when they left: 46%</li> </ul> <p><b>The demographics of homelessness:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeless for the first time in their live: 43%</li> <li>• Homeless disproportionately impacts communities of color – percent of homeless adults are people of color: 42%</li> <li>• Homeless adults who have lived in Minnesota for more than 10 years: 40%; more than 5 years: 44%</li> </ul>	<p>Minnesota Homeless Coalition, 2005</p> <p>Mahube Community Council Community Needs Assessment 2006</p>

Just over one-quarter (28%) of Minnesotans experiencing homelessness live outside the Twin Cities. Homeless adults are similar across the state on many measures, including education levels, ages, how long they have lived in Minnesota, and their main sources of income. On other measures, however, the picture in Greater Minnesota differs:

- 40% of children were in short-term, emergency arrangements (25% in the metro area)
- 36% of men were veterans (23% in metro area)
- 53% were mentally ill (45% in the metro area)

**7. Quality, affordable child care is available.**

<b>Current Community Conditions Related to Issue</b>	<b>Data Source</b>
<p><b>Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to priority #1 for details related to specialized child care needs</li> <li>• 159 community agencies surveyed in Becker, Mahnomen and Hubbard counties, with 77 responding (48.4%) indicated the following needs for those they serve: 32% identified finding quality child care providers, including informal providers; 38% identified getting help with child care costs; 35% identified finding child care in a convenient place; and 22% indicated a need for finding the right kind of child care (including care such as sick child, non-standard hours, night time, care for disabled children)</li> </ul>	<p>Mahube Community Council Community Needs Assessment, 2006</p>
<p><b>Population</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Children living in Becker County Birth to 4 years: 1,984</li> <li>• Number of Children living in Becker County 5-19 years: 6,895</li> <li>• Approximately 70% of children in Minnesota have working mothers. Safe, consistent child care is essential in order to ensure parents are able to work and children are cared for in an appropriate environment.</li> </ul>	<p>2000 Census, Minnesota Planning, Center, 2006</p> <p>Mahube Community Council Community Needs Assessment 2006</p>
<p><b>Employment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area’s largest employer (St. Mary’s Regional Health Center) requires a 24 hour work schedule as do a number of manufacturing and service-related industries in the area.</li> </ul>	<p>No specific data, general knowledge of area</p>
<p><b>Cost of Child Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infant Age: \$20.35 average daily rate; \$2.04 average hourly rate</li> <li>• Toddler Age: \$20.35 average daily rate; \$2.04 average hourly rate</li> <li>• Preschool Age: \$20.35 average daily rate; \$2.04 average hourly rate</li> <li>• School Age: \$20.00 average daily rate; \$2.04 average hourly rate</li> </ul>	<p>Minnesota Child Care Resource &amp; Referral Rate Survey, December 2005</p>

**8. Residents do NOT experience any form of discrimination (ethnic, racial, age, sex, disability, economic level, etc.) as a citizen of Becker County.**

Current Community Conditions Related to Issue	Data Source
<p><b>Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People Committed to Undoing Racism is a group of individuals and agencies that have met over the past several years to address the issues of racism in the community. They have sponsored Undoing Racism training from “The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond” twice in Detroit Lakes with 80 people in attendance. The committee has not met recently.</li> </ul>	<p>People Committed to Undoing Racism/ Becker County Children’s Initiative</p>
<p><b>Population</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White 89.4%</li> <li>• Hispanic .8%</li> <li>• Black .02%</li> <li>• American Indian 7.5%</li> <li>• Asian .4%</li> <li>• Other/Mixed 2.5% (Note: Some individuals may be counted in more than one race)</li> <li>• Close to 17% of Becker County’s children are American Indian</li> <li>• Becker County ranks as the 6<sup>th</sup> highest child poverty rate in the State of Minnesota</li> <li>• 15% of Becker County families live in poverty</li> </ul>	<p>2000 Census, Minnesota Planning Center, 2006</p> <p>Minnesota Kids Count, 2005</p>

NOTE: There is a lack of available data on discrimination in Becker County. The perceptions of Native American people and People of Color and the dominant culture are very different in discussing these issues.

**9. Respite care is available for someone taking care of an elderly or disabled person.**

Current Community Conditions Related to Issue	Data Source
<p><b>Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 159 agencies in Becker, Mahnomen and Hubbard counties completed a survey with 77 responses. 35% of those responding indicated a need for respite for someone taking care of an elderly or disabled person as a significant need</li> <li>• Of 40,931 seniors over age 65, 10.3% indicated they are caregivers for someone who is ill or disabled. In the majority of situations, 68% are caring for a spouse and 13% are caregivers for an elderly parent. In Minnesota, 5% of seniors over age 65 are caring for a grandchild.</li> <li>• Respite care for disabled or elderly persons is extremely limited in Becker County. There is little to no funding available to support this need in the community.</li> </ul>	<p>Mahube Community Council Community Assessment 2006</p> <p>Minnesota State Demographer &amp; MN Board on Aging “2000 Census Portrait of Elderly Minnesotans”</p> <p>Becker County Human Services 2006</p>

Note: The researchers were unable to secure multiple data sources for respite services for the elderly and/or disabled populations in the Becker County area.

**10. Employment opportunities are available for all youth that would like to have a job.**

Current Community Conditions Related to Issue			Data Source
<b>Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional data: According to the 2000 Census, there are approximately 11,305 youth in the 19-county area serviced by Rural Minnesota CEP. Actual youth served last year was 772, including 273 in the summer program. This data is specific to at-risk and economically disadvantaged youth, and not the entire youth population in the 19-county area.</li> </ul>			Vicki Leaderbrand, Planner/Human Resources, Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. 2006
<b>Becker County: Ages 16-19</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	Anthony Schaffhauser, Northwest Regional Labor Market Analyst, Bemidji, 2006 Data, State of Minnesota
Population	983	904	
In Labor Force	586	513	
In Labor Force in Armed Services	0	0	
In Labor Force, Civilian	586	513	
In Labor Force, Civilian, Employed	497	419	
In Labor Force, Civilian, Unemployed	89	94	
Not in Labor Force	397	391	

Note: Data sources on youth employment were very limited. When searching the State of Minnesota web sites, it indicated that data was being reviewed at the state level and would be available at a later date.

# Appendicies