

POVERTY

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

In communities served by the United Way of Sumter, Clarendon and Lee Counties, almost 34,000 people meet federal income guidelines for poverty. Almost a third of them are children. More than half of those children live in areas of concentrated poverty or areas where at least 40% of the neighborhood lives in poverty. This speaks to a general lack of resources in the community, but also makes it hard for children to picture a different life.



SUMTER

Children in Poverty
7,613
(29.5%)



CLARENDON

Children in Poverty
2,642
(39.4%)



LEE

Children in Poverty
1,464
(40.6%)

MEETING BASIC NEEDS

Unfortunately, even these data do not capture the challenges many people face. Federal poverty guidelines were developed in the 1960's, and were calculated as the income needed to secure food. The **South Carolina Self Sufficiency Standard (SSS)** calculates the minimum income realistically needed to cover housing, food, transportation, health care and child care without public or private assistance. The SSS accounts for family size, composition and location. The table below compares the federal poverty level with two types of households in the SSS. While the federal poverty level for a household of one was \$11,770 in 2016, the annual income a single adult needed to meet basic needs based on the SSS ranged from \$17,683 to \$21,678, or 50% to 84% higher than the poverty line. **More people in our communities are struggling to meet basic needs: food and home delivered meals, utilities, and rent.**



SUMTER

SSS for one adult only

\$20,437

SSS for an adult, preschooler & school-age child

\$41,126



CLARENDON

SSS for one adult only

\$17,351

SSS for an adult, preschooler & school-age child

\$32,106



LEE

SSS for one adult only

\$18,725

SSS for an adult, preschooler & school-age child

\$32,395

UNITED WE WIN

United Way of Sumter, Clarendon and Lee Counties envisions a community where all members - children, youth, adults and seniors - achieve their potential.

YOUR local United Way serves three counties with a total population of **more than 160,000 people**. The area is diverse in many respects, including size, urbanization and economic health. While prospects for economic self-sufficiency in most of our region are growing, they are far from equally available.

POPULATION, MEDIAN INCOME AND POVERTY



SUMTER

Population
106,847

Median Income
\$40,777

Poverty Rate
20.0%

in Poverty
21,369



CLARENDON

Population
34,971

Median Income
\$34,106

Poverty Rate
26.0%

in Poverty
9,092



LEE

Population
19,220

Median Income
\$31,169

Poverty Rate
28.2%

in Poverty
5,420

Poverty is the greatest roadblock preventing many of our neighbors from realizing their potential. Poverty contributes to poor health, unstable housing and challenges to academic success. For example, chronic health conditions limit work opportunities. Evictions and poor credit make it harder to secure new housing. Unstable conditions make it difficult for children to succeed in school.