



# DIFFERENT LENS

## Poverty Realities in Rapid City

### \$27,750

Federal Poverty Line for a family of 2 adults and 2 children

### In Rapid City...

### 1 out of 7

residents live in poverty

### 1 out of 16

residents live in extreme poverty

### 1 out of 5

children live in poverty

- 14% of Rapid City and 21% of Rapid City children live in poverty
- 52% of people living in poverty in Rapid City have jobs

### Income

### \$6,138

Monthly income needed for a household of 1 Adult and 2 Children to meet basic needs

### \$3,627

Median monthly income before taxes for a full-time worker

### \$1,872

monthly income for a full-time minimum wage worker before taxes

	Median Household Income	Single Mother Median Household Income	Single Mothers in Poverty	Single Mothers in Extreme Poverty
South Dakota	\$63,920	\$31,379	35%	18%
Rapid City	\$58,072	\$27,923	37%	14%

*\*Income in 2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars*

- 53% of Rapid City's children qualify for free and reduced school lunches.

### Housing

### \$1,100

Rent for a 1 bedroom apartment in Rapid City

### 8,500

Number of families on Pennington County Housing Waitlist

### 3 years

Waitlist time for families on Pennington County Housing

- Nationally, about 45% of those experiencing homelessness are employed.
- In 2022 HUD PIT count reported 1,389 homeless in South Dakota with 458 in Rapid City.
- 2.8% of Rapid City's children are homeless.

### Childcare

### 75%

Children in Rapid City with all available parents in the workforce

### \$600-800

Monthly cost for childcare for one child in Rapid City

### 1,695

Number of families that access Childcare Subsidy Program **Statewide**

## Public Transportation

- Rapid Ride only runs from 6:20am-5:50pm M-F and 9:50am-4:40pm on Saturday with very limited routes and schedules.
- Rapid City School System does not provide busing to any High School students, regardless of location.
- Rapid Ride does not go to Western Dakota Tech, BHSU-Rapid City, or many work locations.

## Welfare Queen Stereotype:

- Average monthly welfare payment (TANF) for 1 parent with 2 children is \$484.81; any increases vary by household.
  - The average time on TANF is 4.3 months
- Federal Food Stamp Benefit is a maximum of \$4.40 per person per day = less than \$1.50 per meal
  - Average food stamp (SNAP) payment is \$4.16 per person per day = \$1.38 cents per meal
  - Average time receiving food stamps is 8.6 months.

## Sources

- U.S. Census Bureau 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
- Economic Policy Institute Family Budget Calculator
- Elevate Rapid City
- South Dakota Department of Social Services

## What Can You Do?

- **Gain a deeper understanding:** Please contact a presenter to schedule a presentation and to learn more about opportunities to increase your poverty awareness and how you can become involved in breaking the cycle of poverty in your community.
- **Work to “bust” negative stereotypes:** Inform others of the facts surrounding poverty.
- **Operate like NASA:** Failure is **Not** an Option-If not me, then who? Work to identify ways in which you can improve your agencies interactions with those battling poverty.
- **Navigate/Mentor:** Build meaningful relationships with people in poverty....Remember they are not “Poor People” but instead people battling poverty.
- **Collaborate and strengthen partnerships:** By working together as a community we can develop a comprehensive, community-wide approach here in Rapid City.

## Need Help with Next Steps?



**Tracy Palecek LPC-MH, QMHP**  
Tracy@PalecekTherapy.com  
605.467.5847



**JOHN T. VUCUREVICH**  
**FOUNDATION**

*...to make a piece of the world a brighter place.*

**Callie Tysdal**  
Communications Director  
ctysdal@jtvf.org  
605.343.3141