









POVERTY IN ST. ALBERT

When a segment of the population faces barriers to economic opportunity, access to health care, social supports, food, affordable housing, transportation and education, the whole community cannot reach its full potential.



of St. Albert households are living in poverty.

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO POVERTY

Affordability



Programs and services: 14% of residents said they encountered barriers to accessing social programs or services. Of those, 91% said affordability was a factor.



Food security: The St. Albert Community Village and Food Bank has seen exponential growth in food hamper recipients from 2022 to 2023.



Housing: 17% of households spend more than 1/2 of their income on housing costs.



Transportation and recreation: In 2023, 2,478 individuals participated in the transportation and/or recreation subsidy programs.



Economic Inequity

Many individuals living under the poverty line are employed, but may be relying on low-wage, part-time, temporary employment opportunities that lack benefits and stability.



St. Albert's living wage is \$23.80 per hour, which reflects what people need to earn to cover costs like food, transportation, clothing. housing, childcare, education, healthcare, etc.

Read what we heard from the Community Social Needs Assessment





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WHO IS AFFECTED?

Poverty is disproportionately experienced by:

- · Unattached individuals
- Racialized persons/groups including Indigenous peoples
- Those affected by a physical disability or mental illness
- · Recent newcomers to Canada
- Women
- People who identify 2SLGBTQIAP+
- Lone-parent, female-led families









WHAT CAN WE DO?

Poverty is multi-faceted and breaking the cycle of poverty requires **systemic change**. Systems change requires organizations, governments, businesses, and community members to **work together and shift our thinking**. It requires our community to recognize the structural injustices, stigma, racism, capitalism, and legacies of colonialism that continue to marginalize residents.

Ways you can support your community include:

- Supporting social organizations with your time and/or resources;
- joining a local awareness and advocacy coalitions/groups;
- becoming a living wage **employer** and/or **shopping** at living wage businesses; and
- supporting below-market and affordable housing developments in your community.



Learn more about poverty in St. Albert





