
Chapter 11

HUMAN SERVICES AND FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

Within the context of the **Leelanau General Plan**, human services and facilities include an array of services typically aimed at providing specialized assistance to individuals and families to improve their productivity as members of society and/or improve their quality of life. These services are characterized by programs for the elderly, employment services, financial assistance, domestic violence intervention, shelters, mental health services, and similarly related support assistance.

Human services and facilities are critically important to the County for a variety of reasons. Availability of strong health and human services is essential to a community vested in thriving, stable families. Many of the services offered enable individuals to become active and productive residents of the County and thus limit the demand on revenues for long term public assistance due to unemployment, disabilities, mental illness, and other difficulties. This can result in both higher level of services delivered as well as more



Benodjenh Headstart/Daycare Center and Strongheart Civic Center in Peshawbestown

revenues available for other needed services and programs. The County's health and human services target all families including young families, middle aged families, and elderly. Furthermore, services target migrant farm workers who temporarily reside in the County during the growing and harvesting seasons and who, by their transient nature, may be in particular need of special services and programs. Without these services, agricultural operations could not be competitive.

ISSUES

Health and Human Services Data

There are approximately 21,564 persons in Leelanau County 3,689 of those residents are under 18 years of age. (American FactFinder). Approximately 90.8% are Caucasian, 2.8% are Native American, <1% Black, <1% Asian and 3.3.0% are of Hispanic origin. (Michigan State University Extension 2015). In 2010, there were 171 births in Leelanau County and 1 infant death. In 2017 there were 175 births.

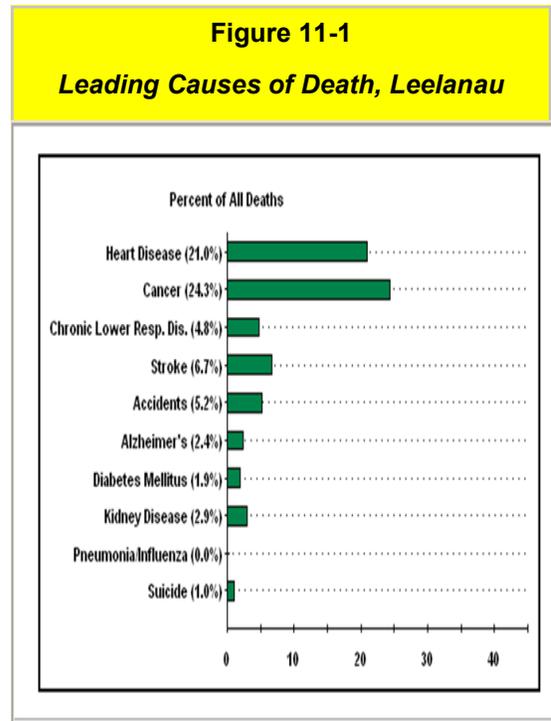
Health status is related to the social-economic status. In Leelanau County, the median household income for 2017 was \$62,646, while the poverty rate was 7.73% (DataUsa). This is lower than the national average of 13.4% living below the poverty line. The largest demographic living in poverty are males 25-34, followed by males 18-24 and then females 55-64. The unemployment rate for the County was 3.3% in May of 2019 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). Additionally it is important to note that family income and employment is affected by seasonal fluctuation due to service occupations that are related to tourism.

Nearly twenty-five percent (25%) of the residents of Leelanau County are 65 years of age or older (US Census, 2010). This population is commanding a growing share of the national, state, and County population. The elderly are faced with numerous day-to-day challenges which, in turn, challenge the human services delivery system. Economic stability, health and nutrition, transportation and mobility, medication management and self-sufficiency are all very real and pressing issues which must be addressed. Insufficient income to meet living needs often faces the elderly on a fixed income. The very aged are more prone to mental illness and similar to the rest of the country, the elderly in Leelanau County are experiencing Alzheimer's disease.

Nearly 3000 Leelanau County residents currently receive health and/or human services support annually. (DHS green book, May 2019) The County includes a large percentage of families qualifying for free or reduced school lunches. Many Leelanau residents struggle to access childcare, health care, housing needs (rent, utilities, heat, etc.), transportation, access to agency resources and the ability to feed and adequately clothe their families.

Leelanau families with young children are typically low wage earners. Far too many Leelanau County families lack resources, have limited access to necessary support services, and cannot afford, or find, childcare.

- Families with young children are typically low wage earners—they are often not settled into a career, and have the added stress of living in an area with limited economic opportunity for the typical wage earner (Leelanau County’s 2017 average weekly wage was \$561, ranking #69 out of all Michigan counties.).
- Families with young children often live in the isolating condition of rural communities and many lack adequate transportation.
- Families with young children may not even speak English- and an increasing population of Latino families has settled in Leelanau County.
- Parents often have difficulty accessing supportive services, because the bulk of such resources are housed in Traverse City.



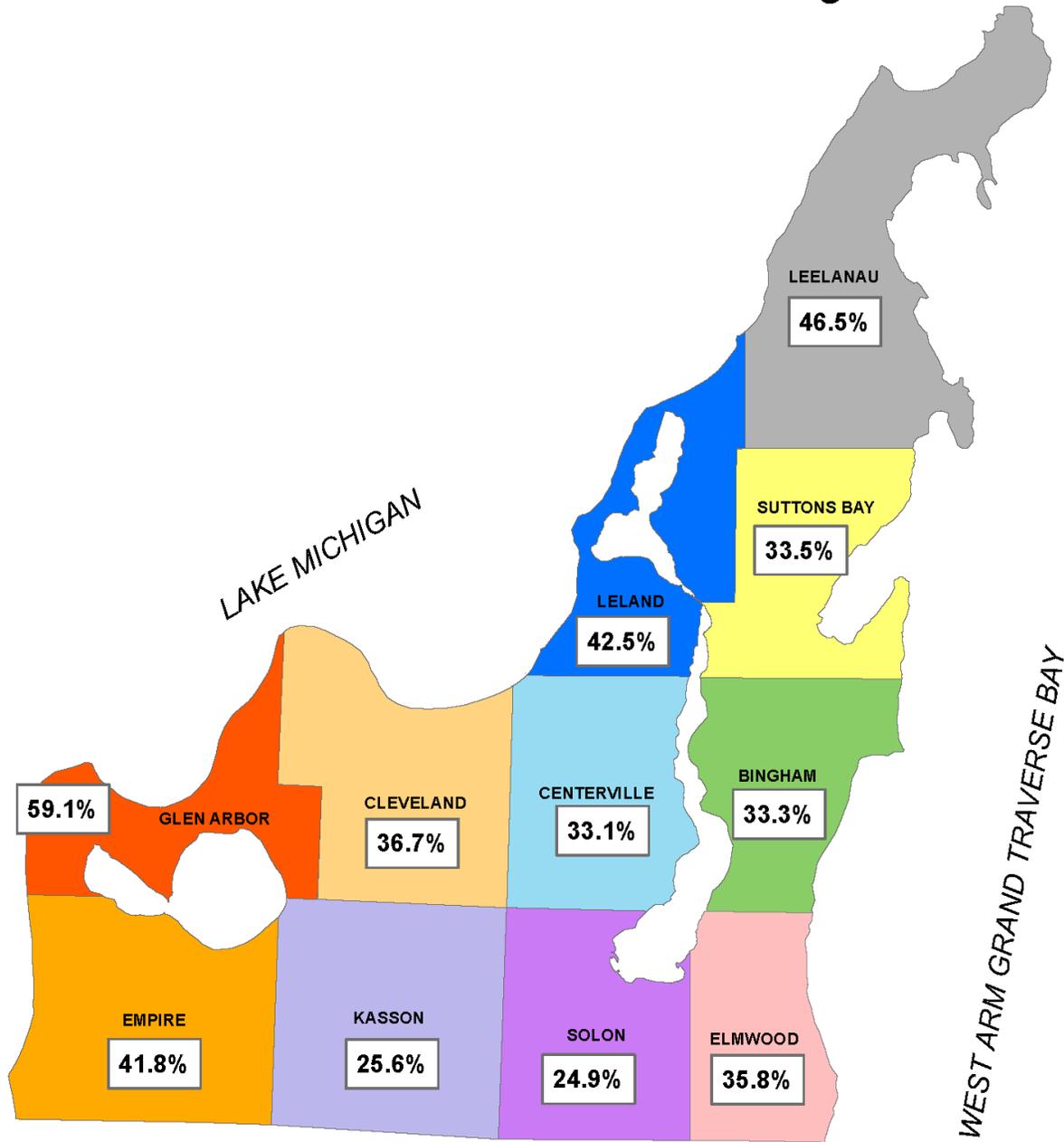
- Many Leelanau young children receive childcare in unregulated settings because their parents cannot afford the higher quality care, and yet they earn too much to qualify for Head Start or other funded programs.

Other statistics to be considered in developing a long-term plan for Leelanau County include:

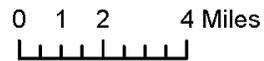
- Nearly half of all Michigan students qualify for free or reduced lunches.
- Weekend and summer food programs (such as Blessings in a Backpack) provide food for youth on weekends during the school year, and during the summer months.
- Each year in the 5 county region (Grand Traverse, Benzie, Leelanau, Antrim and Kalkaska), there are over 200 youth experiencing homelessness, and addition 200 currently at-risk for becoming homeless. It is often the youth sleeping on a friend’s couch, camping, sleeping in the baseball dugout, or sleeping in a car because they are aged out of the foster care system. Youth homelessness is often invisible to the community. (Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness)
- Records from Leelanau Probate Court reveal investigations for child abuse and/or neglect, as well as single parent families unable to collect court ordered child support payments.

In addition, students responding to the 2018 Planning Questionnaire stated **housing availability and cost** was very important (57%) or important (38%) and **availability of continuing educational opportunities** was very important (37.5%) or important (48%) in their decision to stay or leave the Grand Traverse region after their education. A significant majority (83%) of respondents to the 2018 Planning Questionnaire strongly agree or agree that housing is too expensive for first-time home buyers and young families in Leelanau County.

Map 11-2 Percent of Households with a member 65+ Years of Age



Map is for Reference Purposes Only
 Prepared by Leelanau County
 Planning & Community Development July 2019
 Source U. S. Census Bureau
 2010 Decennial Census



Transportation consistently is a barrier to services. Many families have no vehicle or only one vehicle that may be in questionable working order. While Traverse City is the urban hub located in Grand Traverse County, travel to Traverse City is inhibited by an unreliable car or lack of gas money. With 2.5% of the population of Hispanic origin, health and human service providers do face some barriers to service with Spanish only speaking clients. As required by law, health and human services facilities consistently use a contracted interpreter or the Language Line to facilitate appropriate services.

Chronic diseases – including heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and respiratory diseases – share major risk factors including tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and lack of access to preventive care. Reports for Benzie-Leelanau County Health Department show that 31% of adults are considered obese and 64% are considered overweight or obese (MDCH). 19% adults report heavy drinking, 14% of adults report that they smoke (2018 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps). Furthermore, 13% of pregnant women in Leelanau County smoke during pregnancy (MDCH, 2007-2010). Thirty-eight (38%) of our students in high school report that cigarettes are easy to obtain, 65% said that alcohol is easy to obtain, 42% said that marijuana is easy to obtain. (Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY 2017-2018)

Access to medical and dental care continues to be a challenge for Leelanau County residents. County Health Rankings from 2018 show that 9% of our residents are without health/medical insurance. Many residents without insurance forego regular dental care. There are no publicly funded mental health services available within the County.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FACILITIES

Health Care facilities located within the County include the Lake Leelanau Office of the Benzie – Leelanau District Health Department, primary care physician offices, dentists, long term care facilities, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indian Medicine Lodge Clinic and 1 urgent care facility. Since no physical offices are located within the County, residents receive mental health services from Great Lakes Community Mental Health, Third Level Crisis Center, Catholic Human Services, and Pine Rest Counseling Services located in Traverse City.

The Leelanau County HelpLink program, located at the Glen Lake Community Reformed Church, and Leelanau Christian Neighbors are member organizations of the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council (CFCC) and provide services to Leelanau County residents.

There are no shelters located within the County, although close coordination with the Women’s Resource Center, Children’s Advocacy Center, Goodwill Inn, Safe Harbor, and Third Level Crisis Center assures that families are referred to shelters in Grand Traverse County. Leelanau County has 4 public school districts, St. Mary’s private/parochial school, Leelanau School, and Pathfinder School, several preschools, a Tribal Head Start Program and a children’s center.

A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE POLICY

The foundation for the future delivery of human services in the County should continue to be based upon valid baseline data and an understanding of specific human service needs. Services should continue to be based upon clearly identified needs, and to this end detailed needs assessments, strategic plans and evaluation should continue to be developed and implemented.

The ongoing refinements to the County's health and human service delivery system, in response to this base data, should direct special attention to the needs of children, low income families and the elderly. The County's future largely rests with the health and vitality of its children. Yet, it is the County's elderly who are the fastest growing segment of the population. The County's health and human service delivery system should respond to the particular needs of these populations through collaborative programs. Similar efforts should be pursued in regard to services for abuse, domestic violence, health, mental health, early childhood development and other human service's needs, including special programs for migrant workers.

While addressing the needs in the paragraph above, special emphasis should be directed to the basic health and nutrition needs of the entire County before other services can be effective and worthwhile. Affordable and convenient access to health and nutritional care must become paramount. Improvements to the County's human services delivery system should continue to be based upon interjurisdictional and inter-agency coordination and, more importantly, on collaboration. This collaboration should be particularly aimed at preventing unnecessary duplication of services and creating the most cost effective service delivery system. Other efforts should focus on periodic review and monitoring to identify unmet needs, and to finding the most appropriate organization (s) to address the need, as well as ways in which resources can be redirected to higher need services.



Chapel at Old Settlers Park

Health and Human Services
Objective and Action Statements

Health and Human Services provide assistance to all persons in Leelanau County including individuals, children, immigrant farm workers, elderly, those with low incomes, and families in need. Assistance from these services and facilities enable individuals to become active and productive, thereby reducing the demand on long term public assistance due to unemployment, disabilities, mental illness, and other difficulties.

The following goals, objectives and action statements are intended to establish the blueprint for the **General Plan** recommendations for the future of the County's health and human services.

Goal: Reduce duplication and/or gaps in health and human services.

Objective:

Stewardship of public resources dictates that the County and local governments and human service agencies should exert every possible effort to make sure that there is a reasonable match between the needs and services.

Action Statement:

Any resources devoted to program areas designed as “over-met” should be redirected to service areas identified as “under met”.

Goal: Accommodate special needs of children.

Objective:

County and local governments will assure that children have their basic needs met and have access to developmentally appropriate early childhood care and programming.

Action Statement:

The member organizations of the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council and the Early Childhood Development Commission and the County school systems should continue to periodically provide a comprehensive identification of the special needs of children in the County, along with community need assessment of available services and delivery systems in order to compare the special needs of children with services delivered.

Action Statement:

Leelanau Parenting Communities will continue to provide services that emphasize the various aspects of parenting and healthy family function using a variety of delivery methods.

Action Statement:

In partnership with the peer based Parenting Communities program, the health department will continue to provide home visiting services to families, as well as health services through the WIC program and immunization programs.

Action Statement:

The district health department will continue to provide home visits services to children 0-26 years of age with chronic, debilitating conditions through the Children’s Special Health Care Services Program.

Action Statement:

The Early Childhood Development Commission should continue to identify mechanisms for assuring quality programming and support for families in Leelanau County.

Goal: Provide options for Pre-school/Headstart Education.

Objective:

The County, local jurisdictions and school districts should support and encourage programs for Preschool/Headstart as well as programs which provide a good, basic education for all children and families, including low income, high-risk, minorities, and students requiring special needs (including gifted and talented children).

Action Statement:

The County, local jurisdictions, human service agencies, and schools shall seek out and utilize all available funds and facilities to provide such programs.

Action Statement:

Human service agencies shall place more emphasis on educational programs which stress early education for those students with special needs.

Goal: Accommodate special needs of the elderly.

Objective:

Provide human service programs, sponsored by Leelanau County that will facilitate self-sufficiency of elderly residents. Such programs should assist individuals to achieve their full potential and protect and enhance their personal health and enjoyment of life.

Action Statement:

Abide by all ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements and when possible, strive for UA (universally accepted) facilities to assist the physically challenged to promote self-sufficiency by all appropriate means.

Action Statement:

Support human service programs, to facilitate self-sufficiency of elderly County residents. Such programs should assist individuals to achieve their full potential and protect and enhance their personal health and enjoyment of life. In addition, support the involvement of volunteers, community-based organizations, non-profits, and senior citizens in mounting service and educational programs.

Action Statement:

The Leelanau County Senior Services should continue to provide services that will permit senior citizens to remain in their own homes and to minimize their dependence on institutional care. Programs such as nutrition programs, homemaker aid, public transportation, respite care and others are appropriate means for achieving this goal. Continue to provide preventive services for the elderly, including but not limited to contact, physical facilities, and congregate meals.

Action Statement:

Support the involvement of volunteers, community-based organizations, non-profits, and senior citizens themselves in mounting service and educational programs.

Action Statement:

Establish funding guidelines that consider state, County and local appropriations as well as fee and charitable gift revenues.

Goal: Accommodate the needs of the physically challenged citizens.

Objective:

Leelanau County will assure no barriers to physically challenged individuals.

Goal: Accommodate the special needs of migrant agricultural workers.

Objective:

Recognition should be given that migrant workers are key members of the County's agricultural community and attention should be given to their needs during their annual residence in the County.

Action Statement:

The district health department will continue to provide migrant WIC services to pregnant and parenting migrant farmworker families.

Action Statement:

The district health department and member organizations of the LCFCC will continue to assure access to health services for migrant farmworker families through referral to the Northwest Michigan Health Services Clinic (migrant clinic).

Action Statement:

The member organizations of the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council will identify special housing, health care, education and human service needs of migrant farmworkers and develop ways in which existing programs could be strengthened to cost-effectively meet those needs.

Goal: Support domestic violence and substance abuse prevention.

Objective:

Reduce cause and effect of domestic violence and shelter needs.

Action Statement:

The County and local governments should continue to provide information to County citizens as to where to find help in cases of domestic violence.

Action Statement:

Maintain efforts to encourage referral to Traverse City based domestic violence shelters.

Action Statement:

County and local governments should cooperate with various agencies to encourage provision of safe havens from domestic violence.

Objective:

County and local governments should maintain their efforts to prevent and treat substance abuse.

Action Statement:

Health and humans service agencies will refer families for prevention and treatment of substance abuse to agencies such as Third Level Crisis Center and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Goal: Provide County based options for mental health services.

Objective:

Assure a range of mental health services which address the mental health needs of Leelanau County residents and coordinate programming with other state, County, and local agencies providing similar services or serving common clients.

Action Statement:

Conduct an annual review of the community mental health plan and ensure a reasonable relationship between the plan and the annual appropriations and needs for community mental health services in the County.

Action Statement:

The County, health department and the member organizations of the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council will advocate for mental health services that are based in Leelanau County, and available to Leelanau County residents.



Maple Valley Nursing Home, Maple City.

Goal: All residents of Leelanau County will have access to health care services.

Objective:

The district health department in partnership with other health and human services providers will promote access to health care through direct services to families, advocacy, and home visiting.

Action Statement:

In partnership with Munson Medical Center, the Health Department administrators will continue with regional planning work with the goal to increase the number of primary care and dental providers in the region that will serve Leelanau County residents, improve and expand health promotion/prevention activities, improve and expand home visiting in the region.

Action Statement:

The Health Department and the member organizations of the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council, will partner with Munson Medical Center and Priority Health to engage the community in discussions about obesity prevention.

Action Statement:

Within the context of the WIC program, staff of the health department will conduct nutrition counseling, promote breastfeeding and promote access to healthy foods, specifically targeting those children at risk for being overweight or obese.

Action Statement:

Within the context of the WIC program and home visiting programs, the health department staff will continue to assess and counsel pregnant women regarding smoking cessation.

Action Statement:

The Health Department will continue to be an active member of the Traverse Area Tobacco Coalition, impacting broad public health policy as it relates to tobacco use.