

# BASIC NEEDS SERVICES

*“Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and persons to one another.” -St. Vincent de Paul*

Basic Needs Services at Catholic Community Services of Utah (CCS) provides some of life’s main essentials including food, clothing and shelter to those most in need in Utah.

## What is poverty?

The federal government determines that any family or individual living on an income below a federally established guideline is in poverty. For a family of four in 2011, the income guideline was \$22,350. However, poverty is more complicated than a simple measurement implies. Poverty often means living on an insufficient budget and having to make difficult choices between paying for food, rent and utilities and other basic needs.

## How many Utahns live in poverty?

In 2010, a record 46.2 million Americans struggled with poverty. This includes 1 in 5 American children who did not have a stable home, enough nutritious food or other basic necessities. Locally, 13.2 percent or nearly 360,000 Utahns lived in poverty and struggled to make ends meet in 2010.

## How does poverty affect hunger in Utah?

Hunger goes hand in hand with poverty, as an insufficient budget often leaves families and individuals without the necessary means to purchase food. In 2010, 1 in 5 Utahns experienced food hardship and did not have the resources to purchase enough food all year. Catholic Community Services helps Utahns in need obtain nourishment through food pantries, a dining hall serving hot meals and emergency assistance efforts.

## How does poverty create homelessness in Utah?

Homelessness is the ultimate effect of poverty. In Utah, a homeless person is defined as either living in a place not meant for human habitation or is within one week

of being evicted. The majority of homeless Utahns are single mothers with young children. More than 14,000 Utahns dealt with homelessness in 2010.



*In 2009, 1 in 10 American homeowners and 1 in 5 renters reported spending more than half of their household income on housing.*

## How does CCS help Utahns living in poverty?

Catholic Community Services provides Basic Needs Services programs in Salt Lake City and Ogden to help Utahns struggling with poverty, homelessness and hunger regain self-sufficiency.

**-St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall:** This facility provides nutritious meals to more than 1,000 hungry Utahns every day. Annually, it serves more meals than any other facility in Salt Lake County by providing free lunches and dinners to those in need.

**-Weigand Homeless Day Center:** This location provides a safe, clean place in Salt Lake City for homeless Utahns to visit during the day. The facility allows clients to get relief from the elements, take showers, do their laundry, get haircuts, search for employment and more.

**-Emergency Assistance:** This program provides rental and utility assistance to Utahns in crisis.

**-Hall Food Bank:** The Hall Food Bank located in Ogden is the largest food bank in northern Utah and directly serves more clients than any other pantry in the state.

**-St. Martha’s Baby Project:** This program donates layettes to low-income, new parents in need in northern Utah.

**-Homeless Prevention Services:** Through this program, CCS helps struggling northern Utah families avoid losing their homes and secure stable housing.

*For more information or to get involved, visit [www.ccsutah.org](http://www.ccsutah.org).*



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