



HUMAN SERVICES



Every member of the community has the opportunity to achieve their potential and enhance their quality of life. A system of human services assists people in times of need and invests in the development of healthy individuals and families.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS
CHAPTER:

- ❖ Discussion of today's conditions and tomorrow's projections
- ❖ Discussion of challenges and opportunities
- ❖ Discussion of the human services goals, objectives and policies

INTRODUCTION

Human services are services that enable individuals and families to meet basic human needs (physical, economic and social) and offer a range of support including intervention, prevention, and enhancement.

Community living, by definition, requires that certain common amenities be provided to assure the safety and well-being of the population. A listing of desirable community services includes but not limited to police and fire protection, safe water supplies, sanitary sewer systems, solid waste disposal, parks and recreational opportunities, schools, libraries and public administration facilities.

Facilities and services provided by the city provide for the safety and well-being of all citizens and provide a nucleus upon which the fabric of the future community may develop.

TODAY'S CONDITIONS & TOMORROW'S PROJECTIONS

TODAY'S CONDITIONS

	2000 Census	2010 Census	2015 Estimate
Population	1229	1327	1385
Median Age	31.7	32.7	30.2
Number 65 and Over	12.4%	13.8%	9%
Median Income	\$51,346	\$60,938	\$81,908

Sources: 2015 American Community Survey and the US Census

The city of Colwich's population continues to grow and diversify. While 98% is white, the increased number of Hispanic citizens comprises the remaining 2% of the population. Average household size continues to decrease, the number of older adults continues to decrease, married couples with children, and single parent families continue to increase.

TOMORROW'S PROJECTIONS

The Colwich population statistics steers the planning for the needs for traditional human services and other city services. For example, as the median age becomes younger, what will the 30 year olds expect in terms of affordable housing, transportation priorities and recreational needs. With the rising cost of living throughout the state, county and city, the ramifications of the growing number of residents choosing to rent versus purchase a single family dwelling becomes more desirable to the same 30 year olds who are also choosing to have smaller families.



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

To create a community in which all members have the ability to meet their basic physical, economic, and social needs and the opportunity to enhance their quality of life, the city must be future-focused and creative in planning for the provision of human services. Changing population demographics and economic realities present challenges as well as opportunities to maximize resources, improve access to services and provide smart stewardship of funds.

FUNDING

As funding from federal, state and county sources becomes increasingly constrained, there is an urgent need for the formation of partnerships with non-profits, other governmental entities, private organizations, faith

communities, and interested community members to leverage resources for the greatest benefit.

COMPLEXITY OF SERVICE PROVISION

Human services are provided by a network of organizations providing varied services according to their individual specialties. It is a challenge to bring together the varied perspectives and approaches to address the human service needs for the city given the distance from the economic center of the region.



ACCESS TO SERVICES

It is vital that residents are able to access services when they need them. The goal of Colwich is that the city maintains appropriate emergency services capable of responding in a timely manner to all citizens when called upon and provide adequate public health services in concert with public needs.



The coordination of municipal health programs with those of the county and continued efforts to attract locally based health professionals and technicians remains a major factor in meeting the community's healthcare needs.

HUMAN SERVICES PLAN

The city is uniquely positioned to provide leadership and influence community awareness, decision making, and allocation of resources for human services through:

Planning – assessing and anticipating needs and developing appropriate policy and program responses.

Facilitating – convening and engaging the community in problem-solving to develop and improve services.

Funding – disbursing funds to support a network of services which respond to community needs.

Informing – promoting awareness of needs and resources through effective marketing and public relations.

The commission recognizes that the major provider of human services in the community, makes decisions and





takes actions in local government, school districts, and other governmental entities that also impact delivery of and access to services. While all city departments are engaged in meeting human service needs, the Council listens to community concerns, assesses current service needs, forecasts future needs and allocates funds to enhance city services.

GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL

Assure effective, appropriate and orderly distribution of services and related facilities to all citizens of the city.

OBJECTIVES

- OBJ-1. Maintain appropriate emergency response capability to assure timely access to all areas of the city in times of disaster.
- OBJ-2. Provide adequate public health services in concert with public needs. Coordinate municipal health programs with those of the county.
- OBJ-3. Continue efforts to attract local based health professionals and technicians.
- OBJ-4. Provide responsible and concerned police protection, reliable fire and disaster protection.
- OBJ-5. Establish a program to monitor the capacity of available services to meet public demand on a fair and equitable basis.
- OBJ-6. Maximize citizen access to available public educational and cultural programs.
- OBJ-7. Seek continuing opportunity for participation in state and federal grant programs as a vehicle for improvement of human services for the elderly, low and moderate income families and the physically and mentally handicapped.



POLICIES

- HS-1. Encourage efficient use of public and private resources and develop a broad base of community support.
- HS-2. Identify opportunities and develop strategies that are preventive in their approach to human service needs.
- HS-3. Maintain the city's role as a human services planner and facilitator by engaging providers and community organizations in dialogue regarding the functioning of the present service systems, emerging needs, and the building of a complete system of services.
- HS-4. Improve access to services throughout the community by removing physical and systemic barriers and empowering individuals to overcome other barriers that may exist.
- HS-5. Encourage partnerships among public and private institutions, schools, human services providers, and others to collectively address needs of children and families using schools as a focal point for the community.
- HS-6. Encourage services that support Colwich's workforce in maintaining and advancing their employment opportunities.