2011-2012 Community Needs Assessment

Income
Data collection involved 225 individuals and the review of more than 100 community indicators.
Erie County has lost nearly 18% of its population, while Buffalo has lost about 44% over the past four decades.
More than 14,000 immigrants and refugees have settled in Erie County over the past 7 years.
Erie County is now home to the nation’s ninth oldest population.
Nearly 11% of Erie County residents have a physical or cognitive disability.
Nearly 70,000 military veterans live in Erie County.
Concentrated poverty is now found within 20 Buffalo neighborhoods.
Income
More than half of Buffalo households have incomes at or below 200% of poverty.
Stabilizing Households
Only 67% of the housing in Erie County is considered affordable.
More than 25% of eligible households do not secure food assistance.
Financial Literacy
Buffalo is one of the nation’s top ten unbanked cities.
Predatory businesses target persons of color, the elderly, and those living in poverty.
Education & Employment
Almost 20% of Buffalo residents have less than a high school education.
Nearly one in ten Buffalo residents have experienced unemployment over the past four years.
Asset Building Opportunities
Net worth of a homeowner is approximately 31 to 46 times that of a renter.
Business ownership is second only to home ownership as a source of wealth nationally.
Efforts to support poverty prevention, alleviation, and work are critical.
Full report is available at:

uwbec.org/needsassessment