

New Bill Could Help Struggling Morgan County Residents

There is currently a bill before the **Indiana Senate (SB211)** that would raise the **minimum wage in Indiana from \$7.25 to \$11.25 per hour**. Median hourly wages can vary widely in Indiana – from a low of \$8.35/hour for a shampooer in a hair salon, to a high of \$87.99/hour for a Pediatrician.¹ According to The Indiana Institute of Working Families, the three largest industries by employment in Indiana are: food and beverage services; administrative and support services; and transportation equipment manufacturing. These account for 500,000 Hoosier jobs. But of those jobs, **74 percent pay below \$13.00 per hour.**²



What does that mean for Morgan County residents? The Indiana Institute of Working Families also calculated the minimum self-sufficiency wage³ necessary for a single adult to support themselves and one dependent, and for Morgan County that is \$13.32. An increase in the minimum wage to \$11.25/hour would go a long way to closing the gap to self-sufficiency.

From **January 1st—December 31st, 2015, 1,610 Morgan County residents dialed 2-1-1** needing help. Additionally, another **1,097 residents** searched our online database at **www.Connect2Help211.org**. Combined, these clients reported **3,564 needs**. **10%** were marked as **unmet**. Connect2Help211 Specialists made **4,127 referrals** to community resources from the 2-1-1 Database. The database includes **109 resources** physically located in the county and an additional **3,871 resources** located outside the county that will serve **Morgan County** residents.

Top 5 Needs

1. Housing - 15%
2. Utilities - 14%
3. Food - 10%
4. Income Support - 9%
5. Mental Health/Addictions - 8%

Top 5 Unmet Needs

1. Housing - 22%
2. Utilities - 20%
3. Holiday Assistance - 12%
4. Food - 11%
5. Goods - 9%

These needs were often symptoms of underlying situations faced by Morgan County residents. The three most common factors in these situations are listed below:

Illness/Disability - 28%

Unemployed/Laid-Off - 16%

Homeless/Doubled-Up - 10%

Call
2-1-1



or visit
www.Connect2Help211.org

Available 24/7/365