

COMMUNITY

SNAPSHOT

2,470+

live in or near poverty

# TOWN OF Newfane

DECEMBER 2019

Since 2011, the population living in **poverty** decreased by **10%**, while total **population** decreased by **2%**.



## Numbers in Need

IN BUFFALO NIAGARA



A Mobile Safety Net Team  
initiative established by  
The John R. Oishei Foundation



Prepared by



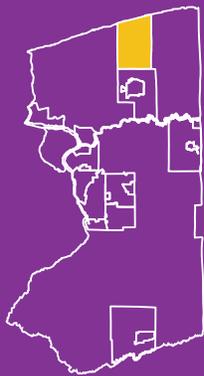
University at Buffalo

Regional Institute

School of Architecture and Planning

# Town of Newfane

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Numbers In Need is an initiative designed to strengthen the safety-net of human services in Buffalo Niagara communities that are most in need.

**Visit [NumbersInNeed.org](http://NumbersInNeed.org)**

## About this Report

This report offers a snapshot of findings for the Town of Newfane, with new data on the community's population that lives in or near poverty. It includes the perspectives of human services providers, the landscape of providers, and strategies that could strengthen the safety-net for individuals and families.

Research in this report was led by the University at Buffalo Regional Institute in partnership with the Mobile Safety-Net Team. It was commissioned by The John R. Oishei Foundation. This work updates and expands upon a community report completed by the research team in 2014.

A Mobile Safety Net Team initiative established by The John R. Oishei Foundation



Prepared by  **University at Buffalo**  
**Regional Institute**  
School of Architecture and Planning

## Defining Need

Over 2,470 residents in the Town of Newfane live in or near poverty with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line.

The federal poverty line (FPL) is \$12,490 for a household of one, \$16,910 for a two-person household, \$21,330 for a family of three and \$25,750, for a family of four. A single parent of two who works full time, year round at the minimum wage in NYS (\$11.10 per hour or \$23,088 a year) earns an income just above the FPL in 2019.

The FPL is adjusted annually by the federal government and varies by household size. It is often used to determine eligibility for programs that assist individuals and families with basic living expenses such as food, utilities, and rental housing. Households with incomes that exceed 200% of the FPL (up to \$51,500 for a family of four) generally do not meet income guidelines for most programs.

## Federal Poverty Guidelines, 2019

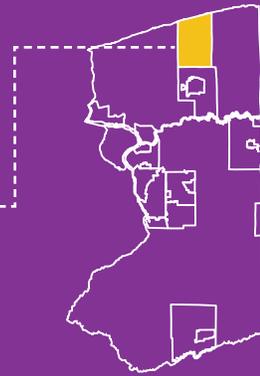
■ Federal Poverty Level    ■ 200% of Federal Poverty Level



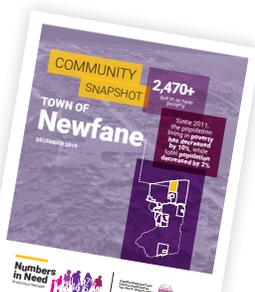
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

## Reports for this Community

This report is part of a comprehensive suite of reports for the **Town of Newfane**, one of 12 representative communities in the Buffalo Niagara Region selected for assessment and investment as part of the Numbers in Need project.



Each of these reports for this community is available online at [NumbersInNeed.org](http://NumbersInNeed.org)



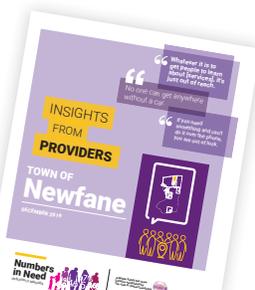
### Community Snapshot

This report, **Community Snapshot**, presents an overview of findings from the research in this community, with new data and information on the people living in or near poverty, their barriers to programs and services, the landscape of service providers, and strategies for strengthening the community so that all residents can thrive economically. This report draws from more detailed findings available on the Numbers in Need website, as well as from *Insights from Residents* and *Insights from Providers*. Agency and community leaders can use this report to understand key findings and identify topics for further exploring.



### Insights from Residents

**Insights from Residents** presents a more detailed look at the community's vulnerable populations, their needs, urgent concerns, and barriers to programs and services. A survey of residents and conversations with residents inform findings in this report. Agency and community leaders can use this document as they develop programs and services that respond to the needs of residents and remove barriers to jobs, programs and services faced by residents.



### Insights from Providers

**Insights from Providers** explores the perspectives of service providers in the community with respect to gaps in the landscape of services, barriers to reaching residents, promising developments, and strategies for strengthening the landscape of programs and services. A focus group with agency leaders informed the findings presented in this document. Agency and community leaders can use this report to shape programs and services that respond to identified gaps and barriers, while leveraging system strengths and promising developments.



### Visit us online at [NumbersInNeed.org](http://NumbersInNeed.org)

**NumbersInNeed.org** is an online tool that leaders can use to understand economically vulnerable populations in the Buffalo Niagara Region, their urgent needs and concerns, barriers to services, and relevant factors such as access to good paying jobs, educational attainment, and transportation options. The website features individual stories, community and regional indicators, interactive lists and maps of service providers, strategies for strengthening communities and models to consider.

## Population In or Near Poverty Across the Town of Newfane

Population in or Near Poverty, 2017

- 0%-25%
- 26%-50%

Among the total population of 9,432

10% ARE IN POVERTY

**882**

live on incomes below the federal poverty level.

+

17% ARE NEAR POVERTY

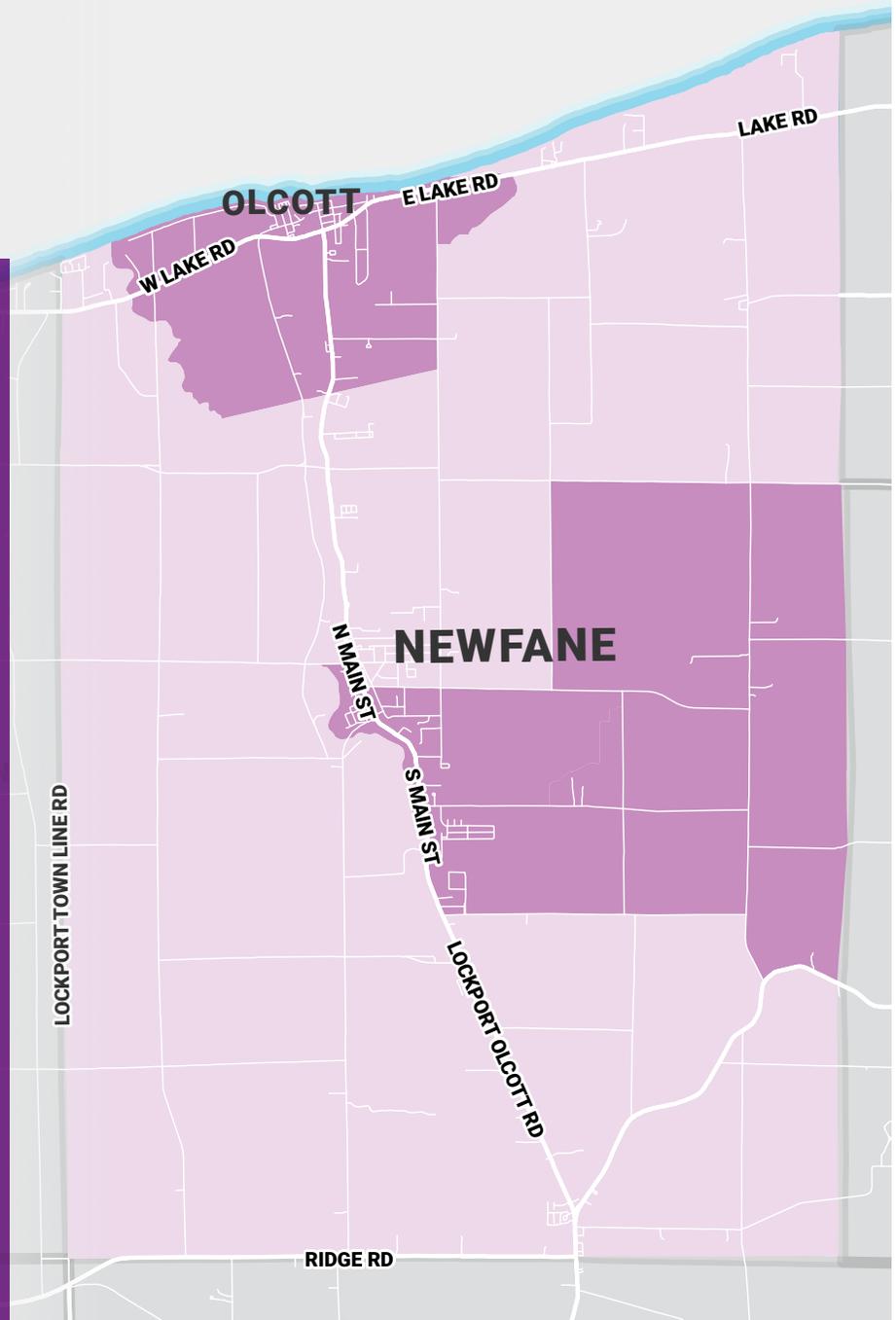
**1,596**

aren't in poverty but are close to it with incomes between 100%-200% of poverty.

27% ARE IN OR NEAR POVERTY

**2,478**

residents are doing poorly or struggling financially.



Source: 2017 American Community Survey (5 year estimates)

**More than a quarter of the population, nearly 2,500 residents, live in or near poverty in Newfane.**

Newfane's overall poverty rate is relatively low (10%). But many more residents struggle financially, living near poverty, or on incomes between 100% and 200% of the poverty line. **Overall, there are almost twice as many residents living near poverty than there are residents below the poverty line.** Poverty is most concentrated in a few places—the hamlet of Olcott (on the town's northern border), the center of town, and east of the town center. The total number of Newfane residents living in or near poverty remained relatively constant from 2011 to 2017. However, in Olcott and Burt in the northern part of town, the number of people living in or near poverty decreased.

## Poverty, Need and Economic Vulnerability

The percentage of residents in or near poverty may seem mostly unchanged since 2011. But looking deeper tells a more complex story. The number of residents living *in* poverty declined by 10% (979 to 882), while the number living *near* poverty increased by about 7% (1,488 to 1,596). At the same time, the town lost about 2% of its overall population.

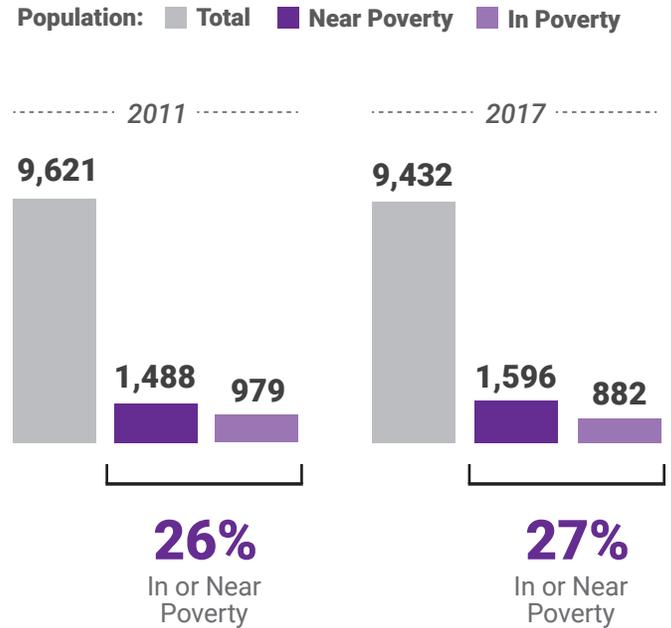
Aside from migration, several factors may have contributed to this shift. Some residents living in poverty in 2011 may now be living near poverty after increased income. The minimum wage in NYS is higher than it was in 2011 (\$11.10/hr in 2019 versus \$7.25/hr in 2011).

Alternatively, those who were more financially stable a few years ago may now be near poverty after a loss of income, and may not know about services newly available to them.

Poverty does not affect all residents equally in Newfane. Single parents and children under 18 are far more likely to live in poverty than other vulnerable populations. Policies, programs, and services that help with food and childcare expenses, increase employment, and provide training/education assistance could have the greatest impact and help single parents and children find a path out of poverty.

Since 2011, the number of people facing poverty, as well as the general population, saw little change.

Total Population and Population In or Near Poverty, 2011 and 2017



Source: American Community Survey, 2007-11 5-Year Estimates; American Community Survey, 2013-17 5-Year Estimates

The burdens faced by single parents in Newfane make them much more likely to be in poverty than their married counterparts. 16% of Newfane's children are in poverty, but a much smaller proportion of young adults live in poverty.

Vulnerable Populations In Poverty, 2017



Source: American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

# Factors That Matter

Opportunities for steady, well-paid employment are now harder to come by in Newfane with the closing of the town's largest employer, Eastern Niagara Hospital. Some of the town's largest employers offer seasonal or part-time jobs in addition to manufacturing jobs. **Only 26% of jobs in Newfane pay more than \$40,000 per year, compared to 40% of jobs across the region.**

One way residents can increase their income is through training and education. More than half of Newfane's adults did not attend college. Residents with a bachelor's degree typically earn more than twice that of people with just a high school diploma.

Homes are cheaper in Newfane than across the region, but rents are about the same. Even with some comparably cheaper housing available, more than half of lower-income households pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs.

Most residents drive to work, school, services, and recreation. But as residents age, they are less likely to own a car. Seniors may have a harder time accessing services and providing for their daily needs.

Graduation rates exceed regional averages, and have improved in recent years. During the same years, juvenile arrests increased.

## Community Data

Visit us online at [NumbersInNeed.org](http://NumbersInNeed.org)

Explore more about this community and others in Buffalo Niagara through interactive features and stories.



### WORK AND INCOME

The top 10 employers in the community provide over 60% of all jobs in Newfane. The town lost its largest employer, Eastern Niagara Hospital, when it closed in 2019.

Top 10 Employers, 2019

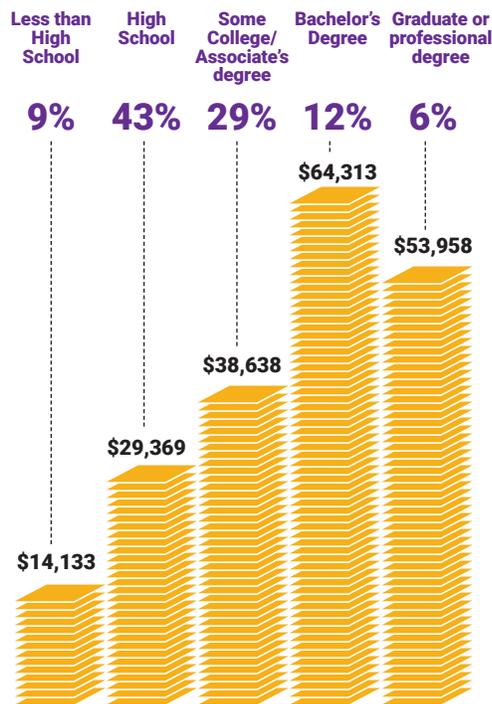
- #1 Newfane Central School District
- #2 Newfane Rehabilitation and Health Center
- #3 Tops Friendly Market
- #4 Lake View Orchards
- #5 Ridge Road Express
- #6 Akzo Nobel Chemicals Inc
- #7 Sun Orchard Fruit Company
- #8 Town of Newfane
- #9 Early Childhood Center
- #10 McDonald's

Source: InfoGroup, ReferenceUSA Business Database, 2019; Buffalo Business First, Book of Lists, 2018.

### EDUCATION

Residents with additional education earn much higher salaries.

Educational Attainment and Median Earnings of Adults Age 25+, 2017



Source: American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

### HOUSING

More than half of lower-income households spend 30% or more of income on housing.

% Lower-Income Households (earning less than \$35k/yr) that are Cost-Burdened, 2017



Source: American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

### TRANSPORTATION

As residents age and retire, they are less likely to have a vehicle.

% of Residents Without a Vehicle

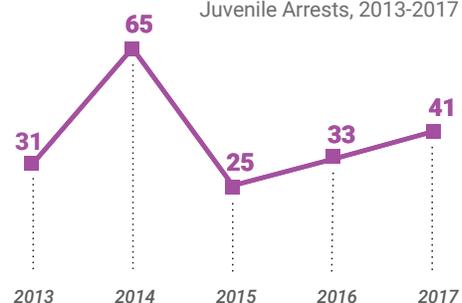


Source: American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

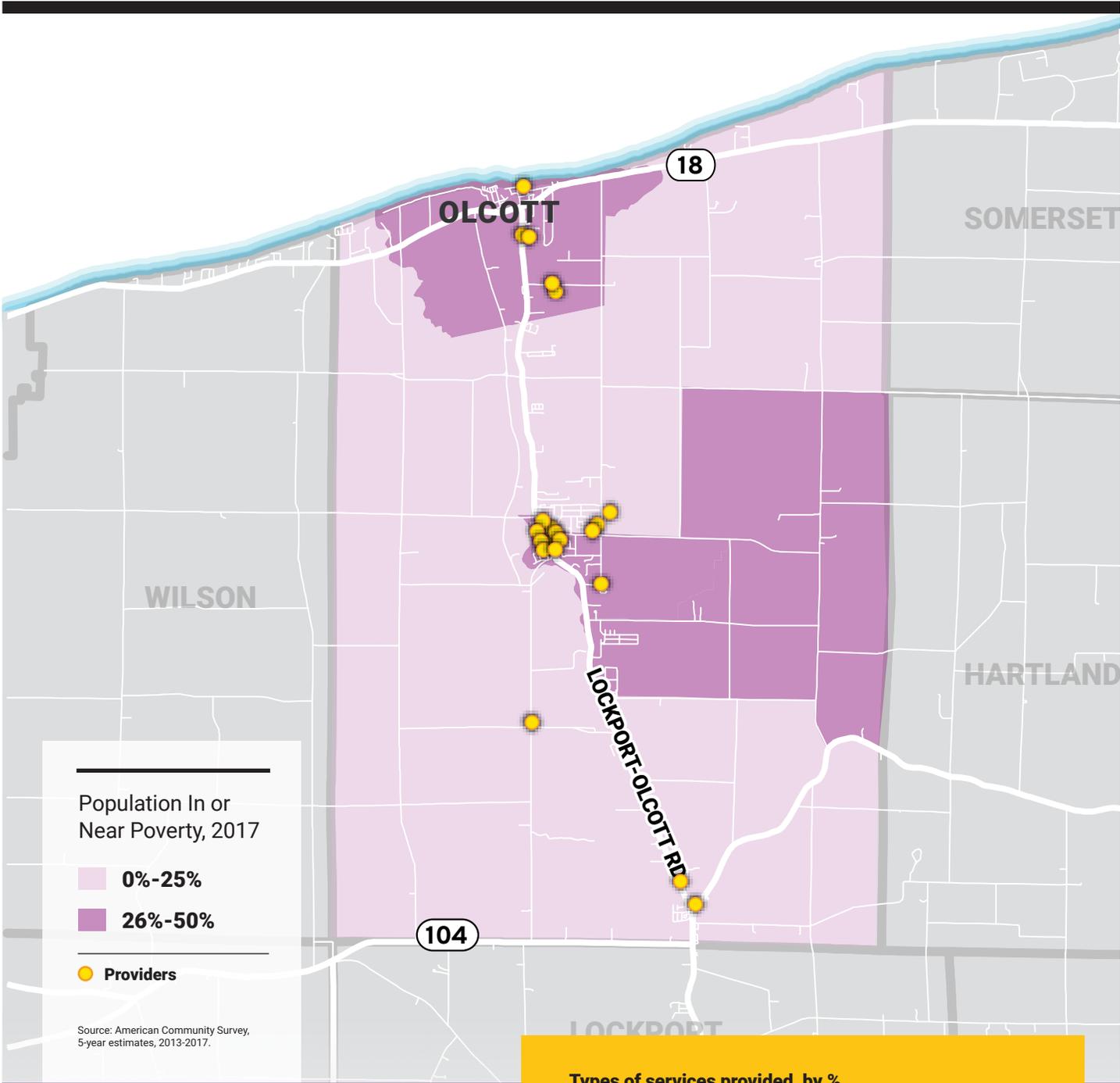
### CRIME

The number of juvenile arrests fluctuated in recent years. Affordable after-school activities could help to lower these numbers.

Juvenile Arrests, 2013-2017



Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, Niagara County and Erie County, 2013-2017.



Population In or Near Poverty, 2017

- 0%-25%
- 26%-50%

Providers

Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2013-2017.

## The Landscape of Providers

**22** SERVICE PROVIDERS   
in the Town of Newfane

See more online

Visit [NumbersInNeed.org](http://NumbersInNeed.org) to view additional maps and the listing of service providers.



### Types of services provided, by %

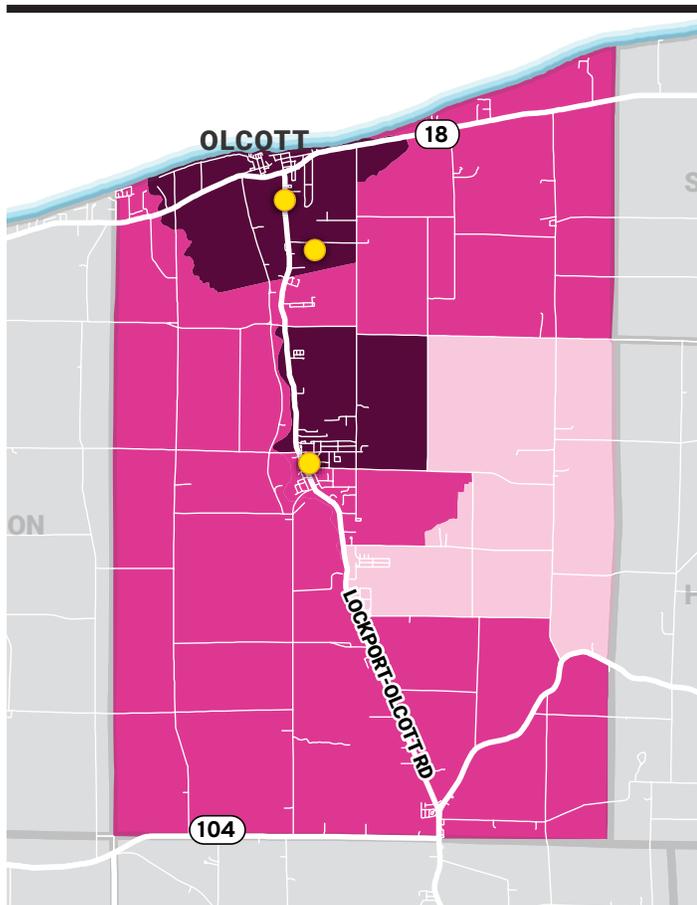
36%	Info/Referral	5%	Housing/Utility
32%	Education/Training	5%	Financial Literacy
32%	Youth Programs	0%	Mental Health/Addiction
23%	Food	0%	Crime/Juvenile
18%	Seniors	0%	Teen Parents
14%	Health/Wellness	0%	Veterans
5%	Transportation	0%	Homeless
5%	Clothing	0%	Legal

# Providers and Resident Needs

## Poverty Rate for Families with Children, 2017

0% 1%-20% 21%-30%

● Providers offering Health and Mental Health Services

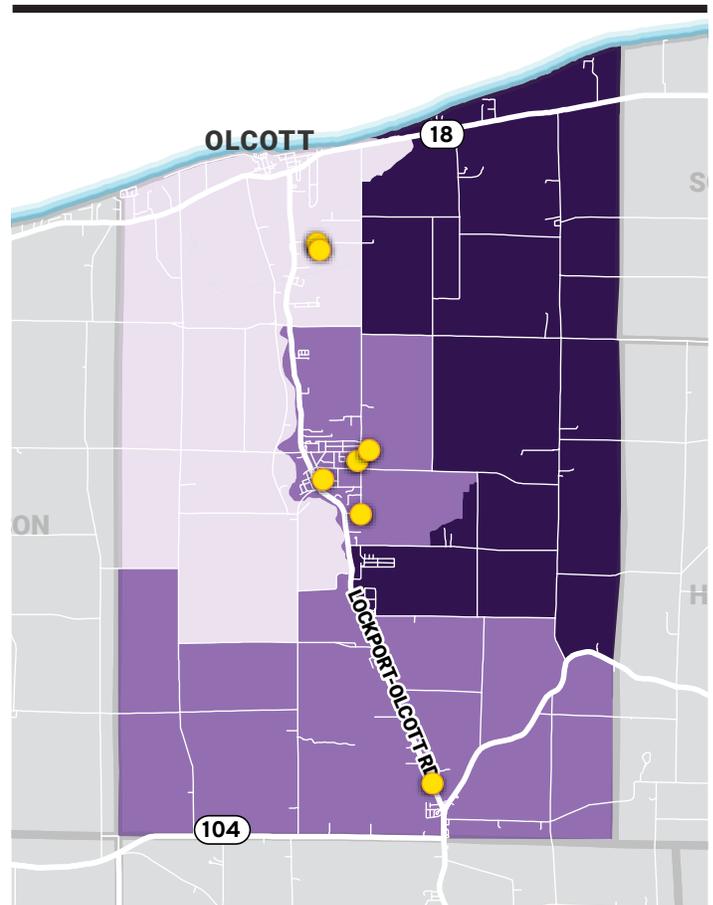


Source: US Census, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2013-2017.

## % Adults without a College Education, 2017

41-50% 51-60% Over 60%

● Providers offering Education and Training Services



Source: US Census, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2013-2017.

### Residents must travel beyond Newfane for most healthcare and mental health services.

Children raised in poverty are more likely to experience issues related to physical and mental health throughout their life. In Newfane, the poverty rate for families with children is highest near the town center, and in Olcott. These areas have a few healthcare providers nearby, but services are limited and disappearing. In August 2019, Eastern Niagara Hospital, Newfane's main healthcare provider, announced that it would close its Newfane facility and relocate some services to Lockport. Newfane's only mental health service provider will soon close as well. Children living in poverty, and many others in need, like seniors with disabilities and young adults battling addiction, will now have to travel outside the community to receive critical health and mental health services.

### Many adults could benefit from more education, but there are limited options for adult education.

Education and training is one of the most common services in Newfane, but it is less common here than in many other communities. Seven providers in Newfane offer education and training, but almost all are for youth. Schools and early childhood programs are a great community asset, but adult education is virtually non-existent. Reflections Recovery Center offered adult education for patients receiving mental health treatment, but this location is being closed. The Newfane Free Library is another resource, but it does not offer formal training. More workforce training and continuing education options could improve the earning potential for many of the 3,700 adults in Newfane with no education beyond high school.

# Opportunities and Challenges for Providers

## Read more Insights from Providers

A detailed report exploring the perspectives from providers in this community.



## What's happened over the past 5 years?

Newfane continues to have a limited number of organizations and agencies that support its poorest residents. These organizations face increasing demand on capacity as the proportion of residents living in or near poverty has increased as a proportion of the total population. At the same time, these organizations may have to work harder to fundraise and recruit volunteers, as the town's overall population has declined slightly over the past six years.



Many of the same gaps and barriers that existed in 2013 still challenge the community today. Transportation remains a big barrier, according to both providers and residents, especially with many programs and services available only outside of the community. Residents may face additional access barriers to healthcare with the closure of Eastern Niagara Hospital's local facility. The town's most vulnerable, who often face mobility challenges and difficulty traveling outside of the community, will be impacted disproportionately by the loss of this important service provider.

←-- Available online at [NumbersInNeed.org](http://NumbersInNeed.org)



### Strengths of the system

**Nearly two dozen service providers are located in Newfane.**

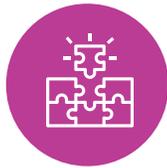
**Services for children are most common.** Half of all providers in the community offer education or youth programs.

**Most providers are located within one mile of hundreds of residents living in or near poverty.** Living near programs and services is important to residents who do not have a car or face mobility challenges.

**Information and referral is one of the most common services in Newfane.**

Information and referrals are especially important when residents must travel outside the community to connect with programs and services they are less familiar with.

**Programs that offer food are perceived by providers as some of the strongest programs in the community.**



### Gaps that Exist

**Providers say there are few if any options in Newfane for getting places for those without a car.** Seniors who can no longer drive are often homebound and isolated. Rural transit is an option for those who can get to the bus stop, but routes are infrequent and there is no weekend service.

**Providers see informational gaps too—cases where providers and/or residents do not know who does what or where to go for services.**

Providers say many programs and services exist across Niagara County for residents in Newfane, but these are concentrated in Lockport and Niagara Falls. **No providers in Newfane offer housing for the homeless, free legal services, teen parent programs or resources for mental health and addictions.**



### Barriers Providers Face

**Transportation is the largest barrier that providers face in connecting with helpful programs and services as well as jobs.**

Having to leave the community compounds access barriers for residents without a car.

**Connecting with target audiences and disseminating helpful information to residents often challenges providers.** One strategy does not work for all. Connecting with young adults is especially difficult, and low turnout at resource hubs limits providers who try to connect with residents before their concerns become urgent.

**Providers say fragmented information systems create barriers to more coordinated, efficient service delivery** that a centralized database could help facilitate.



### Promising Developments

**A Mobile Food Pantry travels to Newfane almost every month,** as a result of a collaboration between local food pantries and Feedmore WNY. **Providers say the mobile pantry attracts nearly 100 residents, including volunteers.** Some providers have leveraged these events to connect with residents and deliver information about additional programs and services.

**Newfane Central School District is partnering with Orleans-Niagara BOCES to train high school students for higher-paying jobs** that do not require a college degree. A bus of students travels to the BOCES in Lockport each day.

**The Community Network of Care unites 30 organizations across Niagara County to strengthen the landscape of mental health services.**

## Survey Results of Economically Vulnerable Residents

80 residents in need took the survey.

About 40% of survey respondents have an urgent concern, primarily related to debt, lacking money for food, and the threat of utilities being shut off because of overdue bills. More than half of respondents have some kind of financial concern as well. Debt is the foremost of residents' worries, whether from credit cards, medical bills, or student loans.

Most residents drive, a near necessity in a rural town with no public transportation and few other options. Owning a car may also contribute to residents' consumer debt burden; 36% of survey respondents reported issues with their cars, such as expensive repairs and failed inspections.

Healthcare is costly too. Even though 93% of respondent households have health insurance for all adults in the household, a third of respondents are in need of healthcare they cannot afford, possibly contributing to residents' worries about medical bills.

### Read more Insights from Residents

A detailed report exploring the community's vulnerable populations, their needs, urgent concerns and barriers to support services.



# 39%

REPORTED HAVING SOME TYPE OF URGENT CONCERN

### TOP 3 URGENT CONCERNS REPORTED BY THESE RESIDENTS



### HEALTH CARE NEEDS

**36%** of vulnerable residents are in need of some type of healthcare but can't afford it.



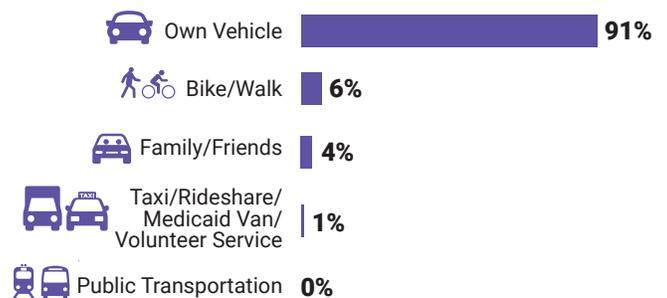
Although 93% of respondent households have health insurance for all adults in the household, a third of respondents said they have healthcare needs they can't afford. This gap may be the result of needs not covered by insurance, or high co-pays or deductibles.



### TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

With public transportation absent, personal vehicles are the primary mode of transportation for most respondents. A few residents are able to bike or walk, while others rely on family and friends.

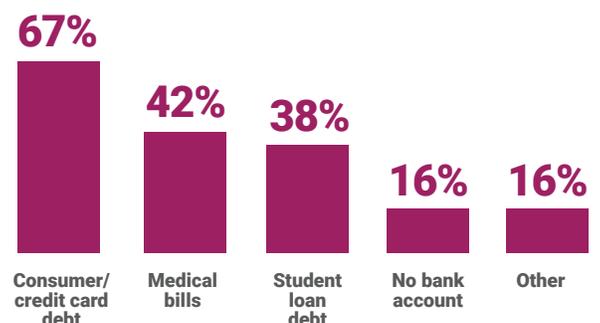
### How respondents get around



### FINANCIAL NEEDS

More than half of respondents (56%) have a financial challenge in their household. Overwhelmingly, these challenges are related to consumer debt, medical bills, and student loan debt.

### Top 5 Financial Challenges in Household



## Regional Strategies and Models to Consider

Finding solutions to community challenges begins with laying out strategies for addressing their root cause. Strategies outline potential action steps that can be implemented, name some of the actors who could be involved in completing those actions, and be supported by models of their implementation. Models from other places in the region, country, and world demonstrate how other communities have carried out a similar strategy to tackle related challenges. These serve as a starting point for understanding how strategies can be successfully implemented in this community.

The following strategies and models are only examples of all the possible solutions to this community's challenges. **Please visit [NumbersInNeed.org](http://NumbersInNeed.org) to view a more comprehensive collection of strategies and models that cover a broader range of topics.**

### See more online

Visit [NumbersInNeed.org](http://NumbersInNeed.org) to view a comprehensive collection of strategies and models that cover a broader range of topics.



Transportation

## Leverage partnerships, volunteers and technology to increase access to transportation and services for people with mobility challenges or access barriers.

Many service providers offer transportation services for their clients. However, insights from providers show that these organizations are often limited by a shortage of funding and resources and other issues. By coordinating with other organizations, leveraging technology, and recruiting volunteers, service providers can overcome these barriers and build the resources they need to provide reliable transportation to the residents they serve. The need to be resourceful and inventive will only increase with an aging population, especially for seniors and those with mobility challenges in more rural areas that are disconnected from public transportation. This approach can help providers improve their ability to reach more people in need.

### Potential Action Steps

Provide funding, vehicles, drivers, and other resources for non-emergency medical transportation.

Leverage technology to reduce transportation costs by using electric or hybrid vehicles or route-optimization technologies.

Facilitate carpooling among current and potential customers of service providers.

Partner with ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft to provide reliable, low-cost transportation to clients of service providers.

Form volunteer organizations to provide transportation to those with mobility challenges or access barriers who need to get to critical services, like healthcare or education.

### Potential Actors in the Community

NFTA

Private ride-sharing companies

Transportation service providers (both private and not-for-profit such as Hearts and Hands)

Health service providers

Religious organizations

Volunteers

Technology companies

### Models to Consider

All Points Transit - Western Colorado  
[allpointstransit.com](http://allpointstransit.com)

Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc. (MEOC)  
- Southwestern Virginia  
[meoc.org/transportationmeoc.htm](http://meoc.org/transportationmeoc.htm)



# Regional Strategies and Models to Consider, cont'd.



Health & Mental Health

## Bring health and mental health services to residents in need through community outreach, mobile services, and online tools.

For many residents, access to healthcare services can be limited, especially for those without a vehicle, in rural areas far from doctors and hospitals, and others facing economic, social, or language barriers. Across the Buffalo Niagara region, thousands of residents face such obstacles—over 60,500 households do not own a car, nearly 36,000 people with a disability live in poverty, and over 18,000 individuals have limited English fluency. Mobile health clinics can overcome these barriers by bringing essential healthcare services directly to residents in need where they live and work. Similarly, proactive community outreach by medical professionals, and online tools and resources can increase awareness and access to healthcare services, especially for those who face physical, cultural, or financial barriers.

### Potential Action Steps

Operate mobile health clinics that travel to communities lacking convenient access to key health services. These can provide low-cost alternatives to primary care, screening and testing, mental health counseling, and other important services, including care outside of normal business hours.

Leverage data to determine where and how mobile health clinics can best reach underserved residents.

Contact businesses and travel to workplaces to directly reach people in need of healthcare services.

Consult with individuals experiencing financial, legal, cultural, or psychological barriers to accessing health care.

Provide consultation services to increase enrollment in health insurance, set up appointments with primary care or other physicians.

Advocate for policies that can facilitate the adoption of information technology for health solutions.

### Potential Actors in the Community

- Hospitals
- Health clinics
- Physicians
- Healthcare providers
- Health insurance companies
- Local governments
- Colleges and universities

### Models to Consider

Mobile Youth South Simcoe (MOBYSS) - York, Ontario, Canada  
[cmha-yr.on.ca/programs/youth/mobyss](http://cmha-yr.on.ca/programs/youth/mobyss)

The Health Wagon - Norton, Virginia  
[thehealthwagon.org/hwwp](http://thehealthwagon.org/hwwp)



# Data Sources & Notes

## Cover

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017.

US Census Bureau, US Decennial Census, 2000.

## Defining Need, Page 2

Federal Poverty Level: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2019.

Minimum Wage: New York State Department of Labor, Minimum Wage (effective 12/31/18).

## Poverty Map, Page 4

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017.

## Poverty, Need and Economic Vulnerability, Page 5

Population in or Near Poverty: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-11 5-Year Estimates; US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-17 5-Year Estimates.

Vulnerable Populations: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017.

## Factors that Matter, Page 6

Work and Income: InfoGroup, ReferenceUSA Business Database, 2019; Buffalo Business First, Book of Lists, 2018. Top employers were first downloaded from ReferenceUSA and mapped to confirm location within the boundaries of the 12 communities. Top businesses by number of employees were cross-referenced with the Buffalo Business First Book of Lists (2018) to ensure accuracy in number of employees at the business location, when available.

Education: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017. All income by education numbers are

actual medians except those for graduate or professional degrees; these have been calculated by weighted averages of the medians, because combined medians were not available via Social Explorer.

Housing: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017. Low-income households in this instance are defined as households with incomes below \$35,000/year.

Transportation: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017.

Crime: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, Niagara County and Erie County, 2013-2017.

In 2017, NYS passed Raise the Age legislation that deals with non-felony offenses committed by 16- and 17-year olds outside of the criminal justice system. The law went into effect for 16 year olds on October 1, 2018 and will be effective for 17 year olds on October 1, 2019. While this law did not affect the juvenile arrest data shown in this report, it may affect trends in future years, beginning in 2018.

## The Landscape of Providers, Page 7

Poverty Map: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017.

Provider Data: Information submitted by agency providers through a provider questionnaire updated a listing of providers developed for the 2014 community report for Newfane. Providers provided information on program and service locations, agency location, geographic scope and more. Most service providers are not-for-profit and public sector providers.

Tax records available through the IRS and National Center for Charitable Statistics were used to identify new not-for-profits with locations in the community since 2014.

## Provider Services and Needs of Residents, Page 8

Poverty Map: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2017.

Provider Data: See note for page 6.

## Opportunities and Challenges for Providers, Page 9

Insights from Providers, Town of Newfane, October 2019. Provider insights come from an agency focus group held in July 2019 with seven provider representatives.

## Survey Results of Economically Vulnerable Residents, Page 10

Insights from Residents, Town of Newfane, December 2019. Survey findings come from 80 surveys completed at eight locations and online in June and July 2019.

## Strategies and Models to Consider

Households without a vehicle, individuals with a disability living in poverty, and individuals with limited English fluency: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2017.

# COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT Town of Newfane

DECEMBER 2019

## Numbers in Need

IN BUFFALO NIAGARA



A Mobile Safety Net Team  
initiative established by  
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Visit us online to  
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communities  
in need across  
Buffalo Niagara.



[NumbersInNeed.org](http://NumbersInNeed.org)