

Understanding Hunger and Poverty in Novato

Novato Human Needs Center (NHNC) serves as a primary source of support for low-income individuals and families living in Novato.

Cost of Living & Low Paying Jobs in Marin

In Marin, the high cost of living (housing, transportation, etc.) is a major challenge for working-poor residents who often work multiple jobs in lower-paying sectors, like retail, food service, hotel accommodations and personal services.

Greatest Hardships Faced by Seniors, Children, Single-Mom & Immigrant Families

Seniors living on fixed-incomes, children, single-moms, immigrant families and people of color experience higher rates of poverty.

Total population of Novato:

54,000

Total below federal poverty level:

4,000 (7.4%)

Total below economic “self-sufficiency” standard, which factors high cost of living:

10,000 (19%)

Total Latino population:

6,300 (12%)

Total who speak a language other than English at home:

13,000 (23.6%)

Total K-12 student population:

8,078

Total children eligible for free lunches:

2,870 (36%)

Note: Sources include the US Census, Bay Area Census, American Community Survey and Marin Community Foundation

The Marin Community Foundation reports that these individuals and families are:

- More likely to work two full-time, low paying jobs to pay their bills
- Under-insured
- Perform poorly in school
- Have lower than average life expectancy
- Teeter on the edge of a financial crisis

All it takes is an unexpected or prolonged sickness, accident, loss of job or mounting debt to cause many families to suddenly become homeless.

Novato Human Needs Center

Each year NHNC is able to provide a safety net for about **4,000** people, including 1,600 families who suffer from financial hardships.

Our clients’ average household monthly income is only **\$1,260** compared to the Novato’s average household income of **\$8,705**. That means our clients are earning only about \$1 for every \$7 earned on average by Novato residents.

Caring Residents

Thankfully, thousands of caring Novato and Marin residents want to bring support and fair treatment to our neighbors, elders, service workers, newest Americans and the next generation of children in our schools facing multiple challenges.