

BLUFFTON SELF HELP

WITH MORE NEIGHBORS *economically at risk* THAN FINANCIALLY SECURE, Bluffton Self Help is leading a coordinated response to how human services are being offered in our community.

We envision communities where everyone has equal access to essential tools and resources to support their journey towards personal success.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

WHAT WE DID

Bluffton Self Help completed an extensive community needs assessment in 2020-2021, in partnership with the Riley Center for Livable Communities.

The Riley Center is a strategic initiative of the College of Charleston. They leverage the intellectual resources of the College to support the economic and cultural vibrancy of the City of Charleston and other communities throughout South Carolina and beyond.

The Lowcountry is a community in crisis. The interconnected issues of education, housing and transportation contribute to poverty in our community and our neighbors are suffering.

WHAT WE LEARNED

Moving our community from surviving to thriving.

When our neighbors are confident in their ability to provide for their family they are better employees, build self-confidence and ultimately have the time and space to be active members of their community.

BSH is making an additional \$1 million investment in our community this fiscal year.

BSH has increased access to our education and career readiness offerings by expanding to four locations in Bluffton (two locations), Hardeeville and Hilton Head.

BSH is quadrupling our client advocate team of social workers and has developed a volunteer team of client specialists to ensure that resources are available in each of our four locations.

We can no longer afford to have a singular focus – meeting the basic needs of our neighbors is not enough.

The expansion of our education and career readiness programs includes more than a dozen available courses that tackle the topics of digital literacy, budgeting, goal setting, resume writing, job search, soft skills training, and citizenship in addition to our English as a Second Language and GED courses.

We have evolved our approach from transactional to relational and are stepping in to advocate, support and guide Lowcountry residents on their journey towards self-sufficiency and thriving in their family, workplace, and community.

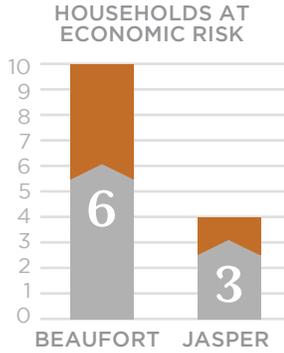
BSH is expanding our mentorship program, with volunteer mentors at the ready to guide neighbors on their path.

Join us as we strengthen and formalize our network of partner agencies, area leaders, donors, and volunteers. Together, we will build a community of opportunity and provide a strong foundation of high-quality services fostering good health, personal development, job placement, financial stability, and career advancement.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

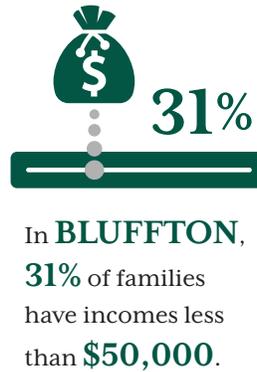


BLUFFTON SELF HELP COMMUNITY *needs* ASSESSMENT

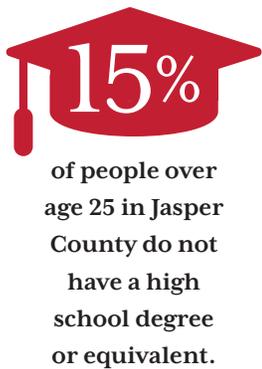


Nearly 6 in 10 households in **Beaufort County** and **3 of 4** in **Jasper County** are economically at risk.

Not earning a livable wage (\$57,000 for a family of three), they are just one mishap away from a financial crisis.



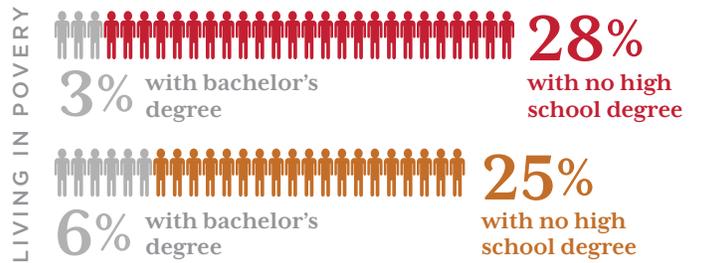
More than **21,000** neighbors are food insecure, and 1 in 5 children in Beaufort County and 3 in 10 in Jasper County live in poverty.



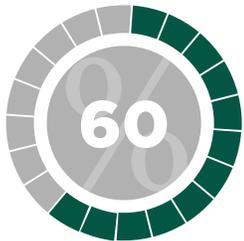
In both **Beaufort** and **Jasper** counties more than one-third of residents (37%) are living in household units that are cost burdened, meaning more than 30% of income is spent on housing.



Education is a significant factor when it comes to income and serves as a strong predictor for **poverty**. In **Beaufort County** 28% of people who have not completed high school live below the poverty line. This number drops to 3% for people with a bachelor's degree or more. In **Jasper County** those numbers are 25% and 6% respectively.



The greatest percentage of individuals that speak English less than “very well” is seen in **JASPER COUNTY** with 60% speaking a language other than English.



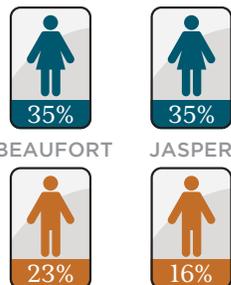
Within the **Hispanic community**, we see the highest levels of poverty and the lowest levels of education and many are challenged with lacking documentation or not speaking English very well.

32% of Hispanics in **Beaufort County** have not earned a high school diploma or equivalent.

55% in **Jasper County** have not earned a high school diploma or equivalent.

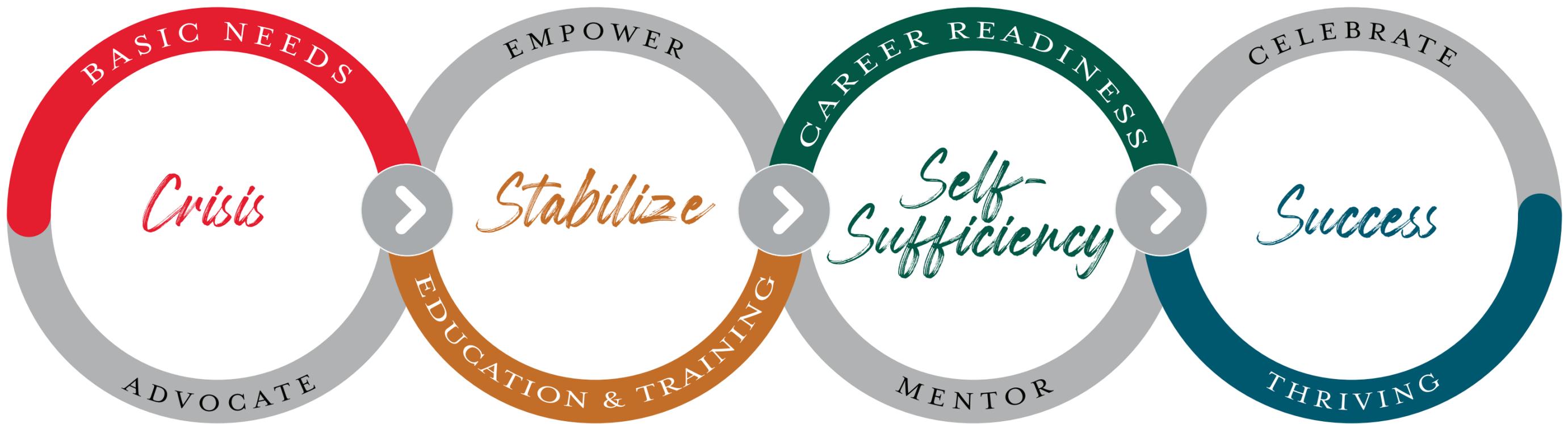


In Beaufort and Jasper counties approximately 36% of the housing is **SUBOPTIMAL** (38% in Bluffton and Hardeeville), meaning it lacks plumbing, complete kitchens, or the housing is overcrowded.



GENDER ALSO PLAYS A ROLE IN POVERTY because women on average earn less money than men regardless of education level. In both Beaufort and Jasper counties 35% of women without a high school degree live below the poverty level compared to 23% and 16% of men, respectively.





BASIC NEEDS
 Food
 Clothing
 Hygiene
 Financial Assistance

EDUCATION & TRAINING
 Adult Basic Literacy
 GED Classes
 ESL Classes
 Workshops
 Computer Labs
 Resource Coordination

CAREER READINESS
 Mentorship
 Develop Career Plan
 SMART Goals
 Resume Writing &
 Building
 Soft Skill Certificates

THRIVING
 Home
 Workplace
 Community

PATHWAYS TO PERSONAL SUCCESS.

Self
 Help