



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Third Largest County in Michigan Ranks Last for Nonprofits, According to New Study

Mt. Clemens, Mich. (April 14, 2022) – Despite ranking third in population, Macomb County lags behind every peer group both in metro Detroit and Michigan for the number of charitable nonprofits per GDP, according to new research commissioned by Advancing Macomb, a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents.

The Advancing Macomb Philanthropic Investment Study, completed by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University, found significant disparities in philanthropic investment for Macomb County based nonprofits. While Macomb County has 16% of metro Detroit's population, it receives only 2% of grants awarded by Michigan's private foundations and only 1% of grants awarded by the nation's largest foundations.

The study defines metro Detroit as a 10-county region including Genessee, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. The state of Michigan is defined as the top 36 counties, according to population.

Additional findings from the study show that despite being the 3rd largest county in the state:

- Macomb County ranks eighth in metro Detroit for nonprofit assets.
- Macomb County ranks seventh in metro Detroit for nonprofit income.
- Macomb County ranks 26th in Michigan for nonprofit assets.
- Macomb County ranks 24th in Michigan for nonprofit income.

The largest disparity falls in nonprofits with focus on education and public/societal benefit.

The study also finds that to reach the Michigan urban area median, Macomb County needs a 60% increase in nonprofit organizations and a 200% increase in nonprofit assets.

"These findings serve as a resounding call to action," said Diane Banks, executive director, Advancing Macomb. "The state of philanthropic investment in Macomb County is not on par with other regions, and these disparities can have a significant impact on the quality of life for our residents. The Advancing Macomb Board of Directors sees a real opportunity here to mobilize philanthropic investment in our county and to drive transformative change."

“Attracting and leveraging a greater share of philanthropic resources to support our residents and communities is vital to sustain and enhance Macomb County’s economic prosperity and quality of life,” said Dr. James O. Sawyer IV, president of Macomb Community College and Advancing Macomb’s Board Chairman.

Study Methodology

The Advancing Macomb Philanthropic Investment Study was conducted by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University. The data was compiled from reviewing the December 2020 Internal Revenue Service Business Master File and 2019 population estimates and Gross Domestic Product from the U.S. Census Bureau.

About the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy

Established in 1992 with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Grand Valley State University (GVSU), the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy is an academic center within GVSU’s Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. Its mission is to understand, strengthen and advance effective philanthropy while building strong, inclusive communities. For more information, visit johnsoncenter.org.

About Advancing Macomb

Advancing Macomb is Macomb County’s conduit for resources that improve quality of life. The 501c3 organization provides the philanthropic model and leadership needed to cement partnerships between the nonprofit, public and private sectors, identify and attract resources to fund major projects and programs, and increase Macomb County visibility. For more information about Advancing Macomb, visit advancingmacomb.com.

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