



PREMIER SPONSOR:



GOOD DAY METRO SOUTH

Featuring Mayor of Brockton, Bob Sullivan
and Dr. Mark Melnik, Director of Economic and
Public Policy Research, UMass Donahue Institute



**Thursday,
February 15**



11:45 AM



**Thorny Lea Golf Club
159 Torrey Street, Brockton**

metrosouthchamber.com/events

(508) 586-0500 x231

NCardoso@metrosouthchamber.com



BROCKTON
CITY OF CHAMPIONS

UMass**Amherst**

Donahue Institute

SOCIAL SERVICES NEEDS IN BROCKTON

Completed on behalf of Catholic Charities

UMass Donahue Institute
February 15, 2024

UMassAmherst

Donahue Institute

Economic and
Public Policy Research

UMass Donahue Institute is a public service, research, and economic development arm of the University of Massachusetts.

Our mission is to advance equity and social justice, foster healthy communities, and support inclusive economies that alleviate poverty and promote opportunity. We serve clients in the public, non-profit, and private sectors in the Commonwealth and throughout the nation and the world.

The Donahue Institute's **Economic & Public Policy Research (EPPR) group** is a leading provider of applied research, helping clients make more informed decisions about strategic economic and public policy issues.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Catholic Charities engaged UMDI to assess the current landscape of social services needs and available services in Brockton. The project included:

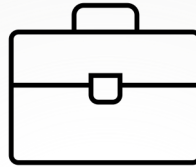
- Demographic, economic & services analysis
- Key informant interviews
- Focus groups with social service leaders
- Development of a final report
- Identification/listing of social services orgs



CORE AREAS OF NEED



**Childcare and
Youth Services**



Job Training



Housing



**Immigrant
Services**



**Mental and
Behavioral Health**



**Food Insecurity and
Basic Assistance**

BROCKTON AT A GLANCE

4.7%

Unemployment Rate
Dec 2023

32.7%

Foreign Born Residents
2022

15.3%

Below Poverty Rate
2022

25.6%

Have a College Degree
2022

MASSACHUSETTS AT A GLANCE

3.2%

Unemployment Rate
Dec 2023

18.0%

Foreign Born Residents
2022

10.4%

Below Poverty Rate
2022

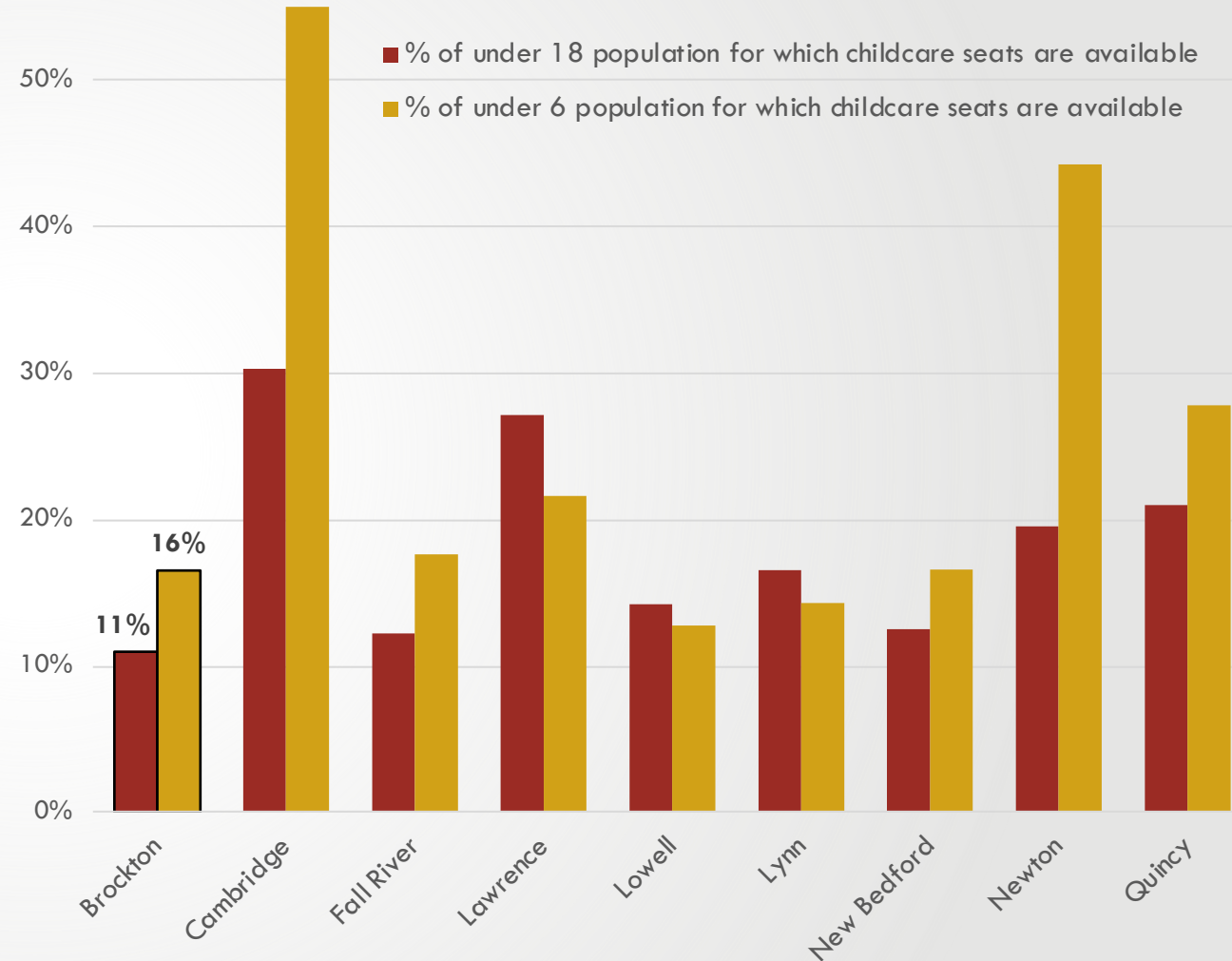
46.6%

Have a College Degree
2022

Sources: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics; Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2022, 1 Year Estimates

RESULTS: CHILDCARE AND YOUTH SERVICES

- 11,500 children in Brockton in households receiving Federal basic assistance
 - 30% under the age of 6
- 1,308 certified childcare seats for children under 6
 - 765 on waitlist
- Seats available for 11% of the under 6 population
- The Boys & Girls Club and Old Colony YMCA are the largest providers of after school services
- Catholic Charities and Boys & Girls Club have summer camps providing seasonal options for older children, and Brockton After Dark offers evening activities for teenagers



Sources: US Census Bureau, ACS; Massachusetts Department of Early Education, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South, UMDI Analysis

RESULTS: JOB TRAINING

- Brockton's unemployment rate of 3.9% is higher than the state average of 2.9%
- Labor force participation among 18- to 64-year-olds is 85%, vs. 80% statewide
- Job training programs are challenged to place residents who are not in a secure enough position to even consider starting to look for a 9-5 job
- MassHire Brockton is the largest provider of job training services. Catholic Charities provides popular and well-regarded CNA and HHA training

“One of the things that affects us is people’s ability to be able to accept a job.

If people are worried about housing and food and domestic violence, and my kids getting fed and able to get to school, then you know, finding a job might be number five on the list.

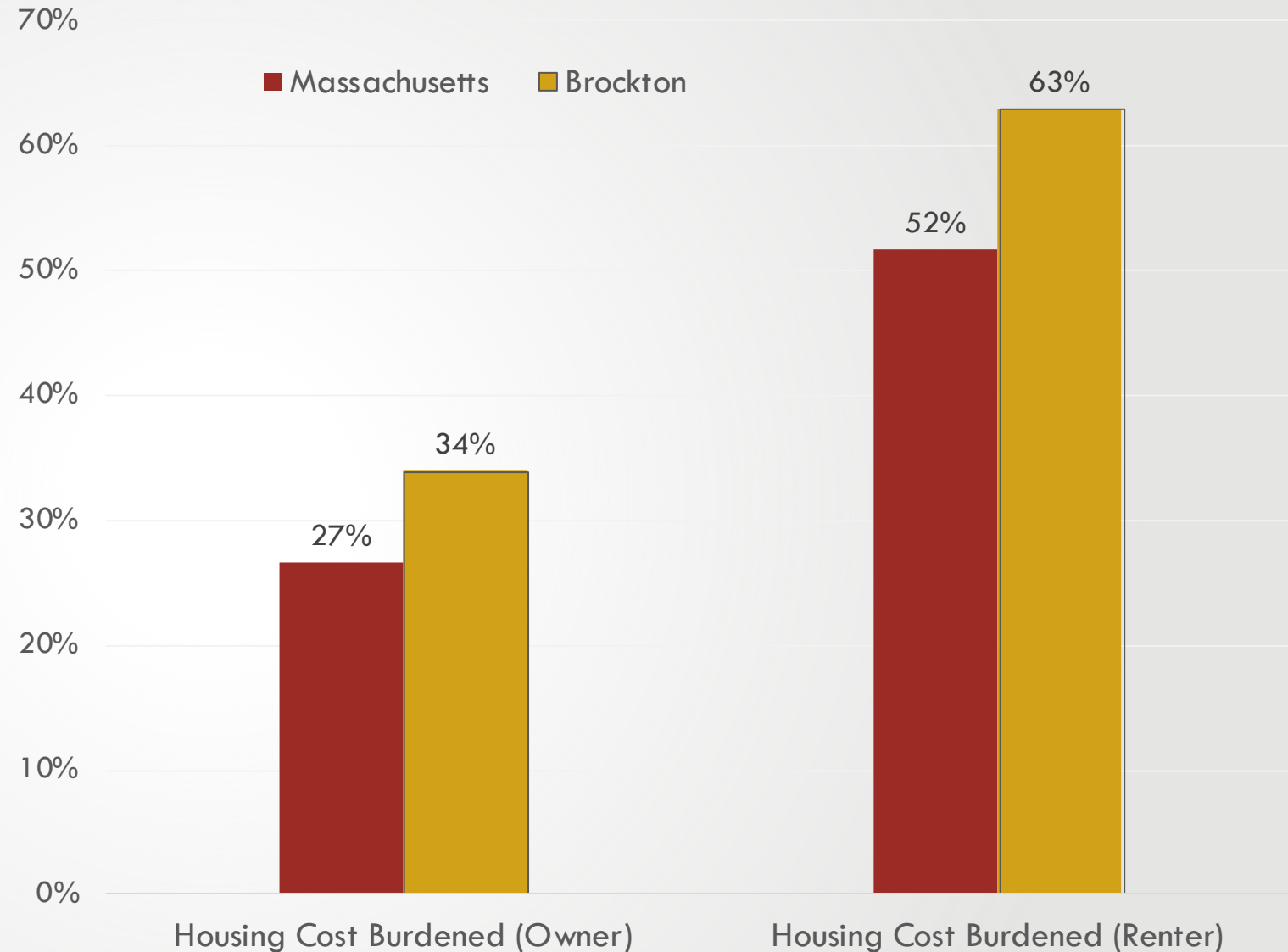
There's much more of a need now for the services to be intertwined, so the person can get the full spectrum of services for success, because it doesn't do us any good to get somebody a job if they can't get to work.”

***- John Murray
Director, MassHire GBCC***

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

RESULTS: HOUSING

- 63% of Brockton renters are housing cost burdened (pay 30%+ of income for housing)
- 4,494 state or federally subsidized housing units in Brockton
- Interviewees report there are notable numbers of families who need to leave the city to find more affordable housing

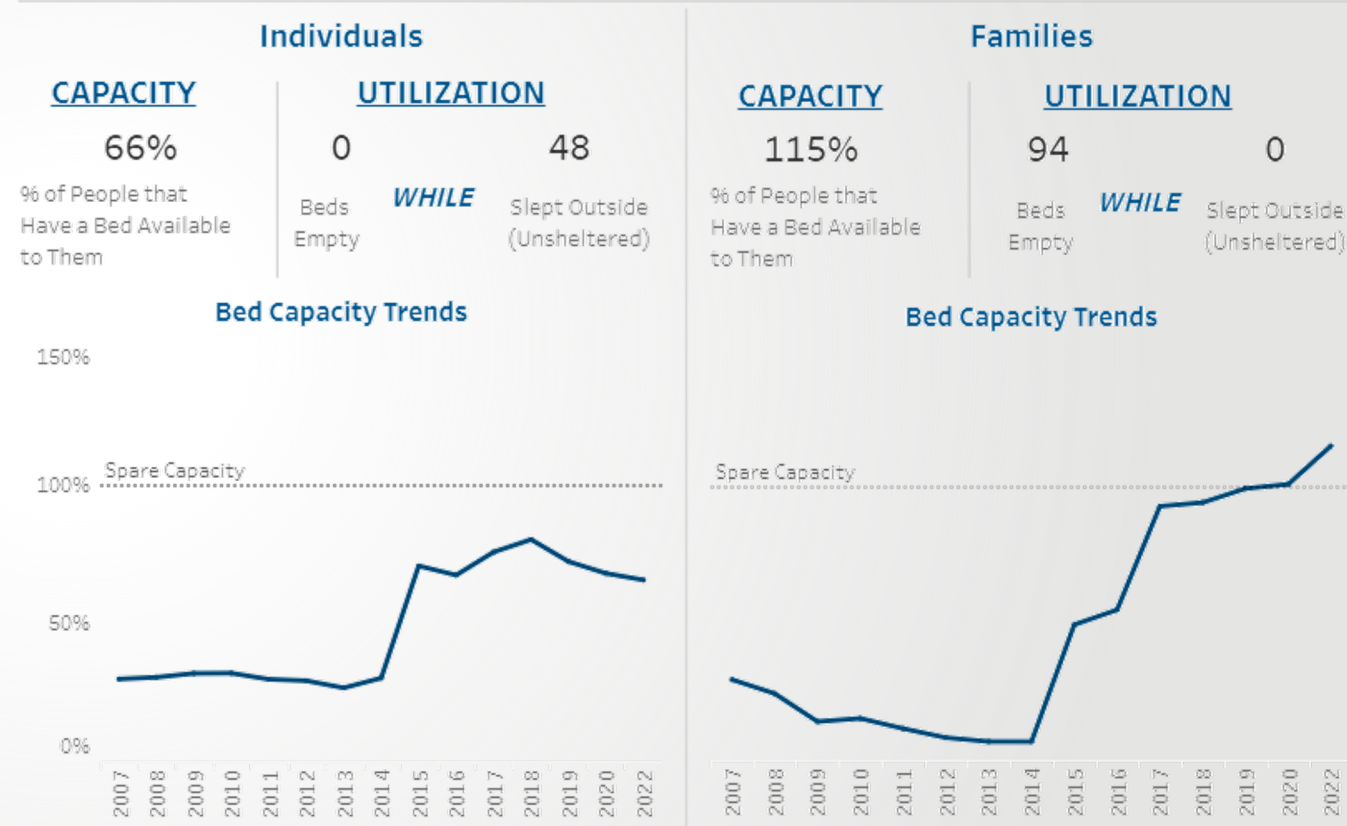


Sources: US Census Bureau, ACS; Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities' Subsidized Housing Inventory

RESULTS: HOUSING - HOMELESSNESS

- Father Bill's & MainSpring is the main homeless shelter provider in Brockton, by all accounts doing a commendable job, is ramping up capacity-purchasing new properties to convert to housing
- Just over 1,000 people were homeless on a given night in 2022 across the Continuum of Care that includes Brockton (Plymouth County)
- Enough shelters to house 100% of families, but only 66% of individuals
- There is little support for the homeless population outside of overnight shelters but can face economic pressures and mental health needs at higher rates

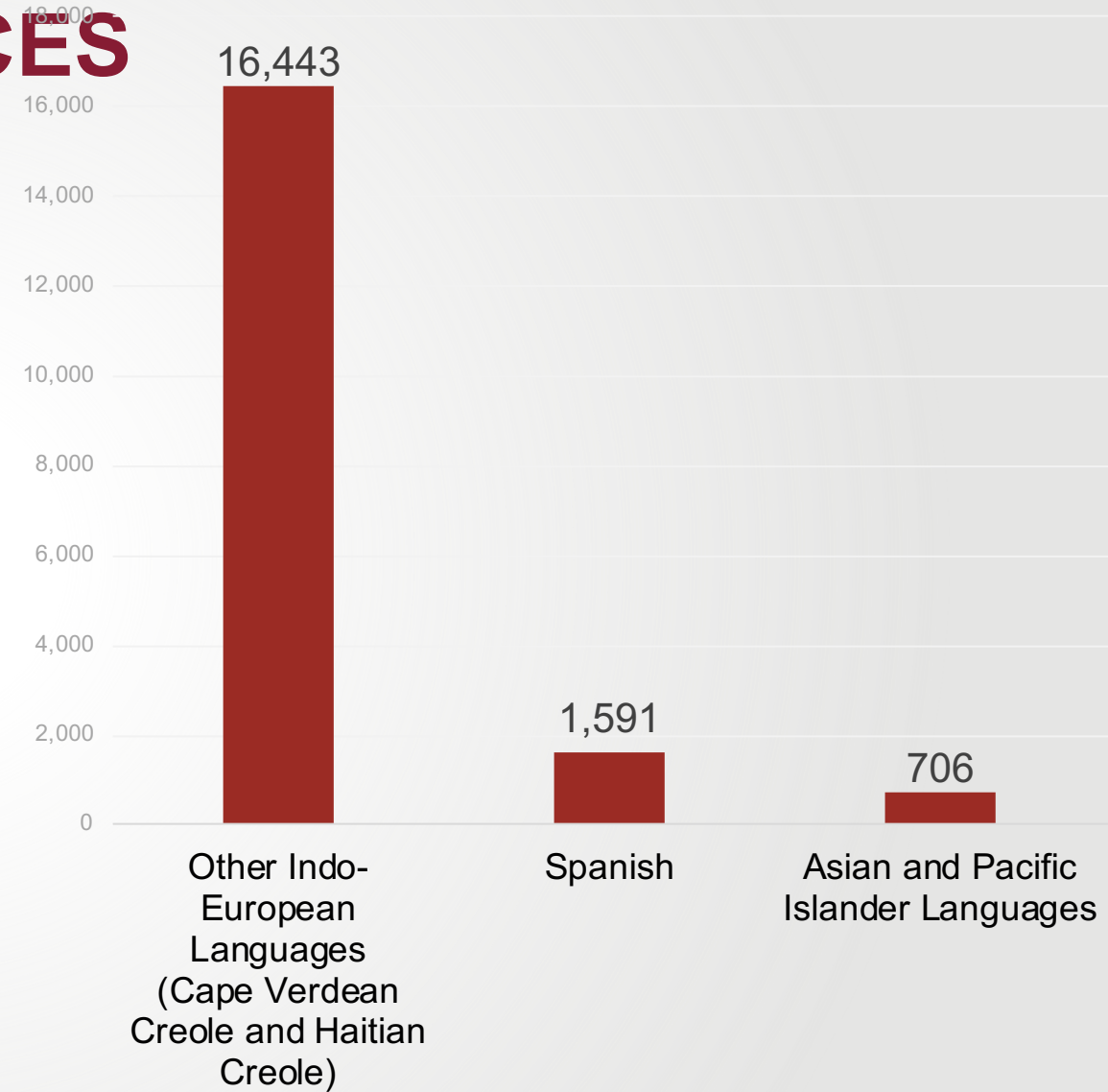
Shelter Bed Capacity and Utilization



Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness

RESULTS: IMMIGRANT SERVICES

- 1 out of every 3 residents was born outside of the US
 - 19% speak English less than "very well"
- Immigrants historically from Haiti and Cape Verde
 - Qualitative research suggests a recent increase in immigration from some Spanish-speaking countries, particularly Ecuador
- Service providers for immigrants tend to be cultural organizations:
 - Haitian Community Partners
 - The Latin Women's Association
 - Cape Verdean Women United
- 580 certified ESOL seats in Brockton
 - More than 1,000 on the waitlist
 - Lack of ESOL can lead to under-employment
- Catholic Charities is the largest provider in Brockton of official ESOL for adults in Brockton



Sources: US Census Bureau, ACS; Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

RESULTS: MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Approximately 1 in 4 Brockton residents would benefit from mental health services, based on national rates
- The largest general mental health providers in Brockton are:
 - BAMSI (Brockton Area Multiservices Incorporated) and
 - The Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
- More specialized organizations such as Family and Community Resources focus on supporting domestic abuse survivors, as well as drug addiction services
- Brockton is especially in need of bilingual services, but cost continues to be a barrier
 - Qualitative research revealed need for more domestic violence counseling in immigrant communities

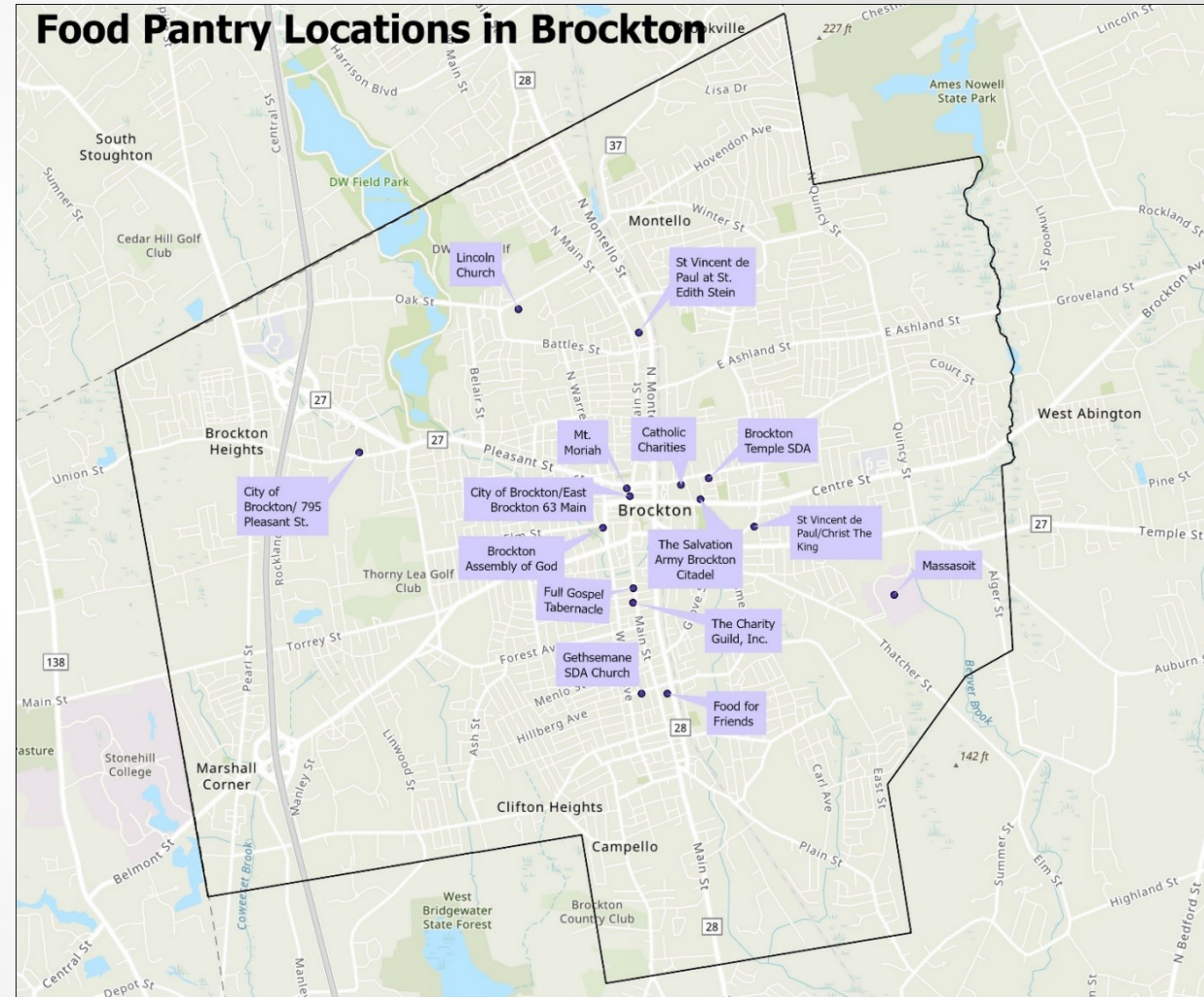
“There...specifically is a lack of bilingual and bicultural mental health services. Part of that is because there is not funding to pay for mental health services.

Third party billing is never going to pay what a therapist wants today, and we can't attract them to come to the Brockton area to work because they can make much more money working on their own at home or going to Boston to work.”

Sources: US Census Bureau, ACS; Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

RESULTS: FOOD INSECURITY AND BASIC ASSISTANCE

- 2023 food prices were up 10% and fuel and utilities prices up 35% from 2022.
- 40,000 people in Brockton are facing food insecurity
- Estimated 1 in 4 Brockton households have had to choose between buying food and affording other basic costs
- Major providers of food pantries and basic assistance include
 - Catholic Charities – food pantry and basic assistance
 - Salvation Army – basic assistance and food pantry
 - My Brother's Keeper – basic assistance, some food delivery
- In 2022, Greater Boston Food Bank-partnered food pantries distributed over 1.9 million meals in Brockton
- Efforts to combat food insecurity have lacked coordination, which can cause inefficiencies in food purchasing



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Greater Boston Food Bank; US Census Bureau, ACS; UMDI Analysis

BROCKTON FOOD PANTRY SCHEDULE

Green: open, Pink: closed, Crosshatched: by appointment

	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	8-12	1-3	3-6	8-12	1-3	3-6	8-12	1-3	3-6	8-12	1-3	3-6	8-12	1-3	3-6	8-12	1-3	3-6	8-12	1-3	3-6
Massasoit Food Pantry																					
Catholic Charities Brockton																					
Lincoln Church																					
Brockton Assembly of God																					
The Salvation Army Brockton Citadel																					
Brockton Temple SDA																					
Mt. Moriah Emergency Food Program																					
Gethsemane SDA Church																					
Full Gospel Tabernacle																					
The Charity Guild, Inc.																					
St Vincent de Paul/Christ the King																					
East Brockton Food Pantry																					
St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry																					
Brockton Food Pantry																					
Food for Friends Pantry																					

Sources: Brockton WIC Program, Food Pantry Websites, UMDI Analysis

RECOMMENDATION: INCREASE COORDINATION

- **Solutions**
 - Communication-based network
 - Hiring outside operations manager
 - Play to strengths, and assets (warehouses, trucks)
- **Most in Need of Coordination - Food Pantries**
 - Established organizations like Catholic Charities can potentially function as coordinators
 - Work to overcome funding and regulation hurdles
- **Challenges to Long-Term Planning and Coordination**
 - Two-year election cycles
 - High turnover, work intensity in social service sector
 - Increased centralization

Thank you!

Mark Melnik, Ph.D.

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University of
Massachusetts
Amherst



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Mayor Robert Sullivan's **Message of Progress**



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

Mayor Robert Sullivan
Good Day Metro South
February 15, 2024

ARPA Construction Projects

Mary Cruise Kennedy Senior Center

Total: **\$7,669,400*** ARPA funding

*Includes state earmark of \$1 million



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

Mayor Robert Sullivan
Good Day Metro South
February 15, 2024

ARPA Construction Projects



War Memorial Building

Total: \$4,987,262
ARPA funding



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

Mayor Robert Sullivan
Good Day Metro South
February 15, 2024

ARPA Construction Projects

Lawrence R. Cosgrove Memorial Pool



Total: \$6,004,533*
ARPA funding

Includes Federal earmark of \$3 million



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

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ARPA Construction Projects



Brockton City Hall

Total: \$12,461,131

ARPA funding



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

Mayor Robert Sullivan
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Brockton Public Safety Building



Total Bonded:
\$98 million (to date)



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

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Brockton Hospital/Signature Healthcare



Expected reopening
Summer of 2024



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

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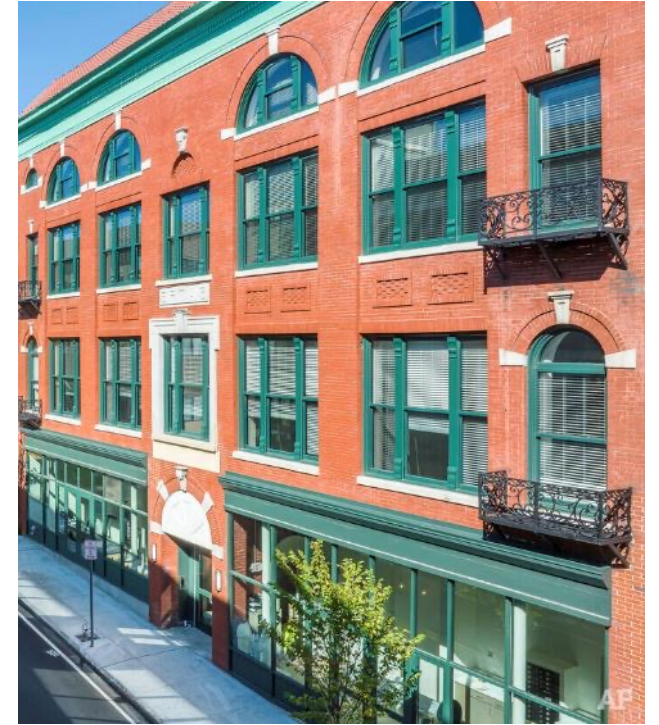
Residential Projects



Empresa



The Anglim



The Petronelli



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

Mayor Robert Sullivan
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Residential Projects



Lincoln School Senior Housing



Centre Station



One Nine Residences



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

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Residential Projects - **Permitted**



Merian on Main (rendering)



Hotel Grayson (rendering)



Brockton South
Transit-Oriented-Development
(rendering) 1200 Montello Street

43-69 Montello Street

26 School Street

132 Main Street

46 Montello Street

Petronelli Way

69 North Montello Street



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

Mayor Robert Sullivan
Good Day Metro South
February 15, 2024

Marvelous Marvin Hagler Tribute



Marvelous Marvin Hagler Park

Marvelous Marvin Hagler Statue

Spring 2024



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

Mayor Robert Sullivan
Good Day Metro South
February 15, 2024

New Businesses



Starbuck's
Belmont Street



Tru Hotel by Hilton
Westgate Drive



Air Energy Group, LLC
Industrial Blvd.



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Good Day Metro South
February 15, 2024

New Restaurants



Sunrise Steakhouse



Salo Bar and Grill



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

Mayor Robert Sullivan
Good Day Metro South
February 15, 2024

Baseball in Brockton



**This summer:
80 home
baseball games
at Campanelli
Stadium**



CHAMPIONING THE FUTURE...

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Thank You



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UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

www.metroouthchamber.com/events

2/29 9th Annual Multicultural Business Forum & After Hours

- 5:00PM @ Thorny Lea Golf Club - 159 Torrey St., Brockton

3/28 Good Day Metro South: Secretary Hao, MA Office of Economic Development

- 12:00PM @ Concord Foods – 10 Minuteman Way, Brockton