WCCCD

in

Wayne County
Of those persons residing in WCCCD’s service area, 859,714 were reported in the labor force with 734,207 employed as of February 2009. The official unemployment rate exceeds 14.6 percent, with 20.7 percent of the population living in poverty.
More than 1,985,000 persons reside in the 32 cities and townships served by the District within the County of Wayne. While those younger than 18 represent 26.5 percent of the population, less than 9 percent of residents are between the ages of 18 and 24. This reflects a state-wide pattern of jobs-based out-migration for a productive segment of the population. More than 27 percent of the population in Wayne County is between 25 to 44 years of age with the largest segment (32 percent) 45 years and older.
Communities in southeast Michigan reflect the most ethnically diverse communities in the state, The largest number of persons of Arabic descent outside the Middle East is located in Wayne County with a rowing Hispanic community located in southwest Detroit and Downriver areas. The City of Hamtramack represents the largest immigrant and refugee community in the region with more than 40 languages spoken. The migration of persons from the South during the expansion of manufacturing in the 20th century resulted in a significant African-American presence and the availability of jobs created opportunities for immigrants from Europe and Caribbean nations.
Educational attainment reflects the dependence within the region on the labor-intensive automotive-related manufacturing economy of the last century. Of those persons aged 25 to 65, 31 percent (the largest proportion) attained a high school diploma. Eight percent reported a graduate or professional degree, while 14 percent had less than a high school diploma. Twenty-four percent of residents had attended college, yet only 8 percent had earned an associate’s degree and only 13 percent a bachelor’s degree.