The "Age Wave" will continue and greatly impact communities, the workforce and services.

**Racial Diversity**

- 7 in 10 people new to region are from a minority group (births, in-migration)
- In 2017, 9.3% of population identifies as a person of color.

**Unemployment Rate US, MN and West Central 1998-2018**

**Wages**

- 2018 Average Weekly Wage by Economic Development Region

**Trends**

- Need for larger workforce
- Housing affordability and availability
- Need for increased wages
- Need to expand broadband access & coverage
- Need for more child care openings and providers
- Rising cost of energy

**Wages**

- 2018 Average Weekly Wage by Economic Development Region

**Unemployment**

- 2018 Unemployment Rate US, MN and West Central

**Poverty**

- Poverty Rate by County 2014-2017

Data resources are available through the West Central Minnesota 2017-2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy at ceds.wcif.org. West Central Initiative compiles the CEDS plan for the Region IV Economic Development District of Minnesota.

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