

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

GOAL: All residents in Calhoun County will have opportunities for increased earning potential through education

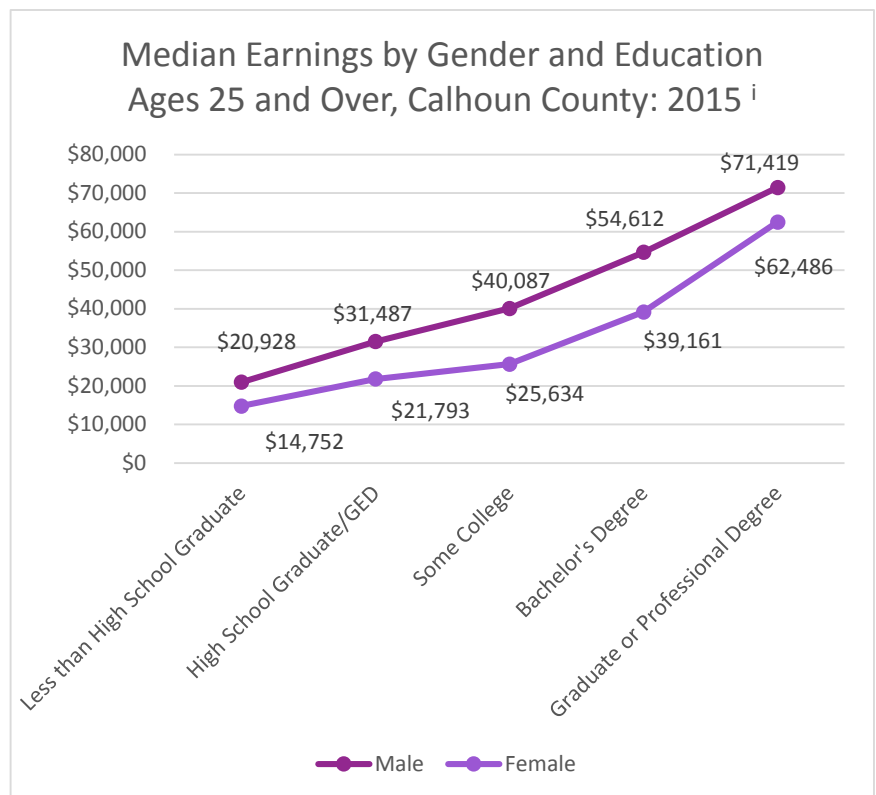
RATIONALE FOR CHOOSING INDICATOR: Education matters in economic development. Regions that cultivate an educated workforce are more likely to compete effectively in today’s demanding world economy. Moreover, educational attainment is strongly tied to personal income growth. Incomes increase significantly with higher educational attainment. A critical challenge facing any region is the ability to attract, retain and develop talented workers. A knowledge-based economy places more emphasis on skills and mental competencies than on physical strength and manual competencies. This is true across all sectors from manufacturing to health to business services. The educational attainment of area residents is increasingly important to the success of local businesses to traverse changing markets by adopting new technologies and practices, and to enter a promising emerging economy.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS 25 AND OLDER ⁱ			
	Calhoun	MI	US
Less than High School Education	9.4%	10.1%	13.0%
High School Graduate or Equivalency	35.7%	29.6%	27.5%
Some College (No Degree)	24.9%	23.8%	21.0%
Associate’s Degree	9.2%	9.1%	8.2%
Bachelor’s Degree	13.9%	16.7%	18.8%
Graduate or Professional Degree	6.8%	10.7%	11.5%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS 25 -34 YEARS OLD ⁱ			
	Calhoun	MI	US
High School Graduate or Higher	88.8%	90.9%	89.3%
Bachelor’s Degree or Higher	18.6%	31.2%	33.7%

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Education beyond high school remains relatively low as one out of every ten adult Calhoun County residents does not complete high school. A relatively small share of residents age 25 and over hold a Bachelor’s degree or higher (20.7% compared to 27.4% statewide and 30.3% nationally). ⁱ Educated young adults in Calhoun County appear to be highly mobile which reflects negatively on the county’s perceived quality of life. Many young adults could choose to take jobs in more attractive or larger metropolitan areas, or to live outside the county if they do work in the county. Of county residents ages 25 to 34 years, 18.8% hold a Bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 31.2% statewide and 33.7% nationally. ⁱ Significant income disparity by gender continues to be a concern across all educational levels. ⁱⁱ



ⁱ American Community Survey. American Fact Finder, www.factfinder.census.gov, accessed December 13, 2017, (2012-2016 5-Year Estimates).

ⁱⁱ W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 2015.