According to 2010 statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 1 in 8 residents in Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, and Wilkin counties live below the federal poverty threshold (i.e., less than $22,314 for a family of 4 in 2010).

The poverty ratio increases to approximately 1 in 3 for American Indians and for persons of Hispanic origin living in the region.

Notes and Sources:
Poverty statistics were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701. Poverty thresholds by family size are updated each year by the U.S. Census Bureau and can be found at http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/thres hld/index.html

“For a variety of reasons, when compared with children from more affluent families, poor children are more likely to have low academic achievement, to drop out of school, and to have health, behavioral, and emotional problems. These linkages are particularly strong for children whose families experience deep poverty, who are poor during early childhood, and who are trapped in poverty for a long time.”