

# **2017 State of Tucson's Human Service Nonprofit Sector: Service Strengths, Gaps, and Changes in Funding**

Brian Mayer, PhD & David McBee, MA  
School of Sociology, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
University of Arizona

# Poverty in Tucson

- 25.1% individuals live below poverty threshold (19.1% for Pima County) (*2016 American Community Survey*)
  - 33% of all children grow up in households below the poverty threshold
- ~85% of poor households are housing overburdened (spending >30% of income on housing & utilities) (*Tucson Poverty Project*)
- ~60% of poor households claim to have never received assistance from a charitable or nonprofit organization (*Tucson Poverty Project*)

# Tucson Poverty Project

- Developed to provide data to the Mayor's Poverty Commission (2012-2014)
  - Continued support from multiple community nonprofits to longitudinally examine challenges of low-income households across Tucson
  - Integration of community-based areas of concerns into annual survey (food security, financial literacy, health)
- Facilitating ongoing Poverty Commission roundtable focused on collective action and lobbying
  - Supported by findings from MAP White Paper "A Multi-City Comparison of Poverty Reduction Strategies: What Tucson Learn from Other Cities"
- Challenged by community partners to better understand the nature of nonprofit service delivery and identify potential gaps and overlaps

# Data and Methods

- **Guidestar dataset**

- All 501(c)(3) registered organizations in AZ
- Mailing addresses in Tucson = 2,955 organizations
- IRS Form 990 income > \$25,000 over 18 months = 1,591 organizations
- National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities Code (NTEE) related to social welfare activities = 514 organizations

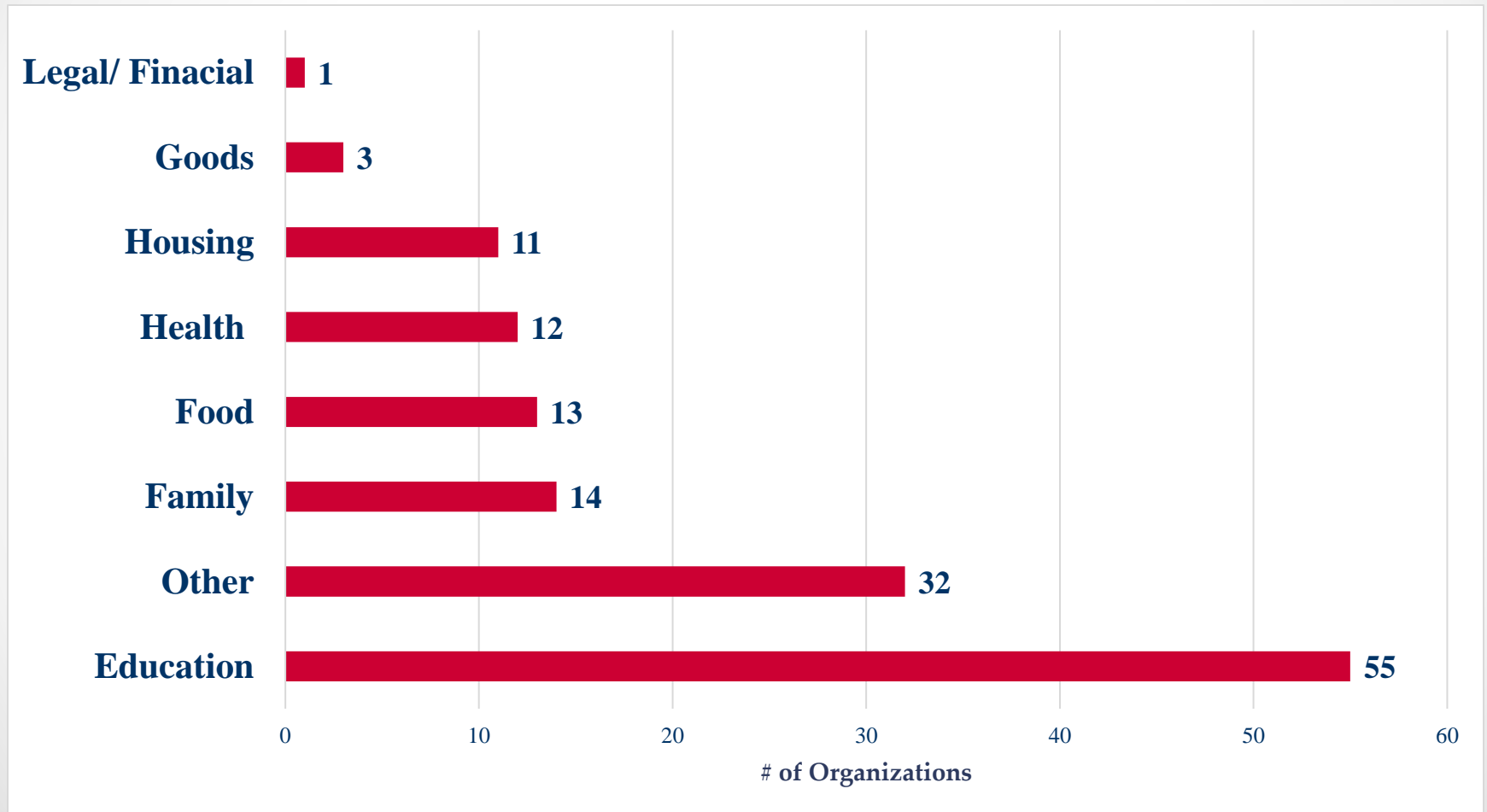
- **Personal Contact**

- Distribution of electronic survey over email to correct staff person
- Team of undergraduates searched for telephone numbers for all 514, called, left messages, to identify correct email address
- 276 Organizations could be contacted and provided email addresses

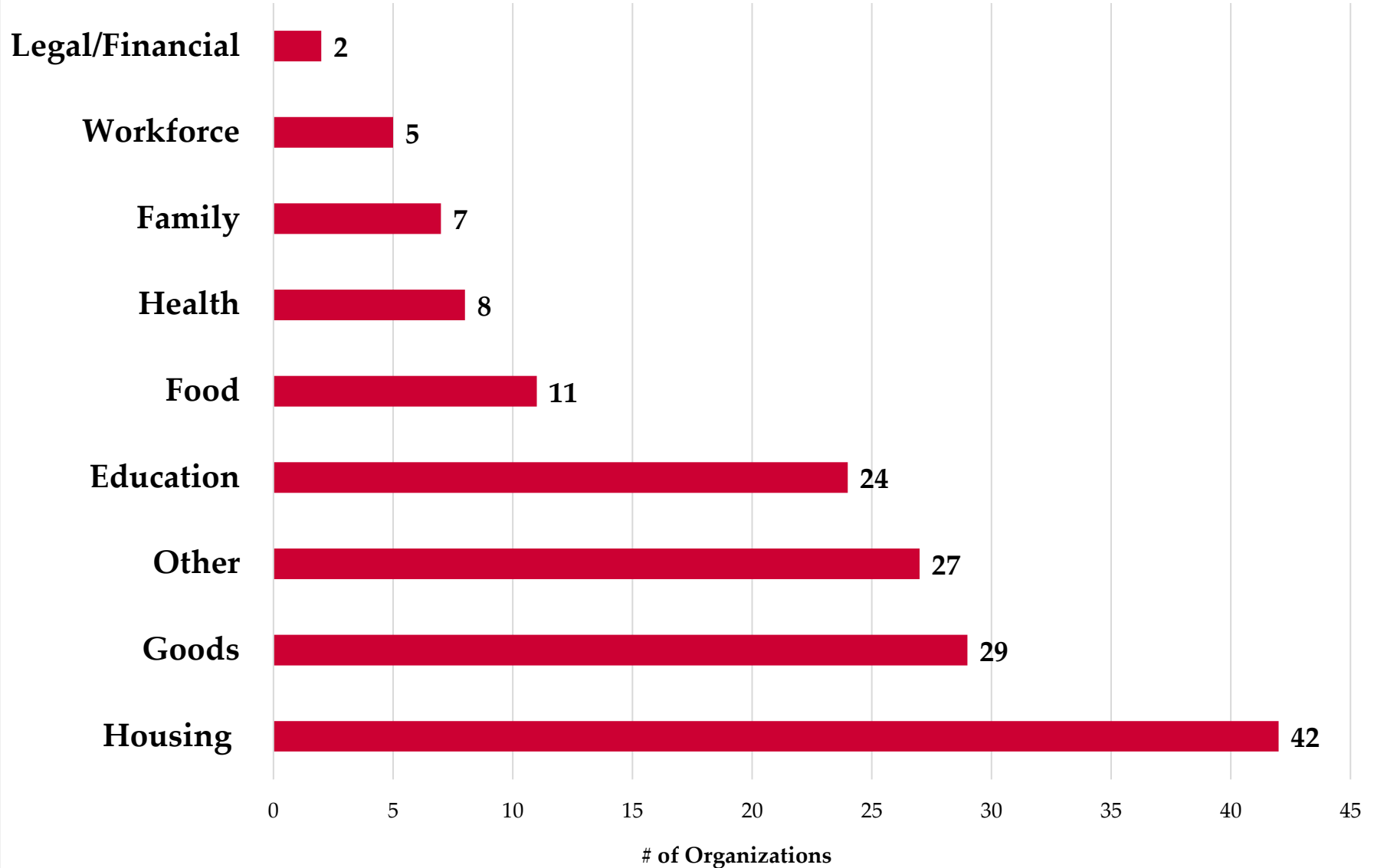
- **Final Sample**

- 119 organizations responded to our survey (43% of contacted org's)
  - 22% of potentially eligible organizations
-

# Key Findings: Types of Services



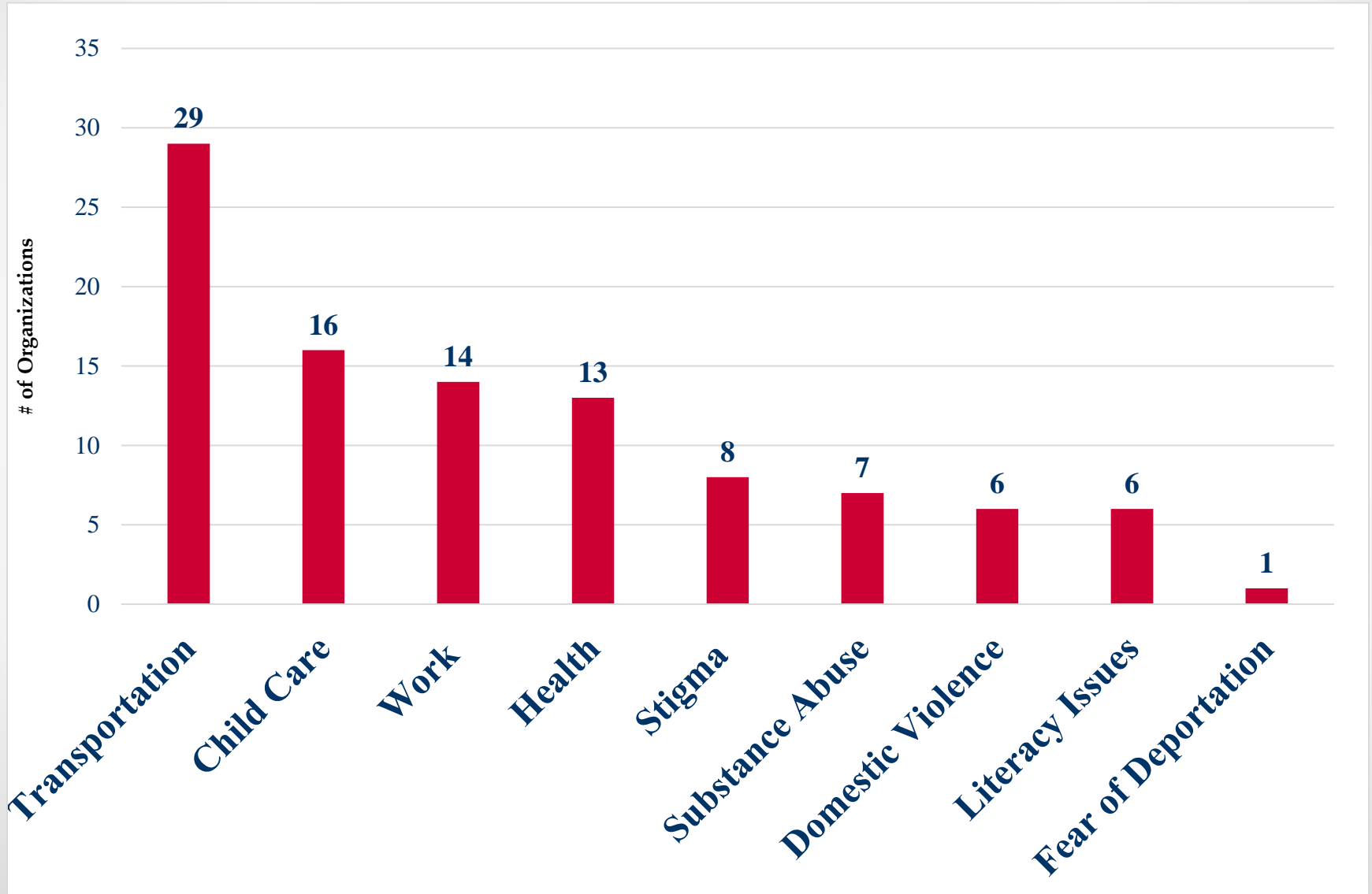
# Key Findings: Unmet Needs



# Key Findings: Why Housing?

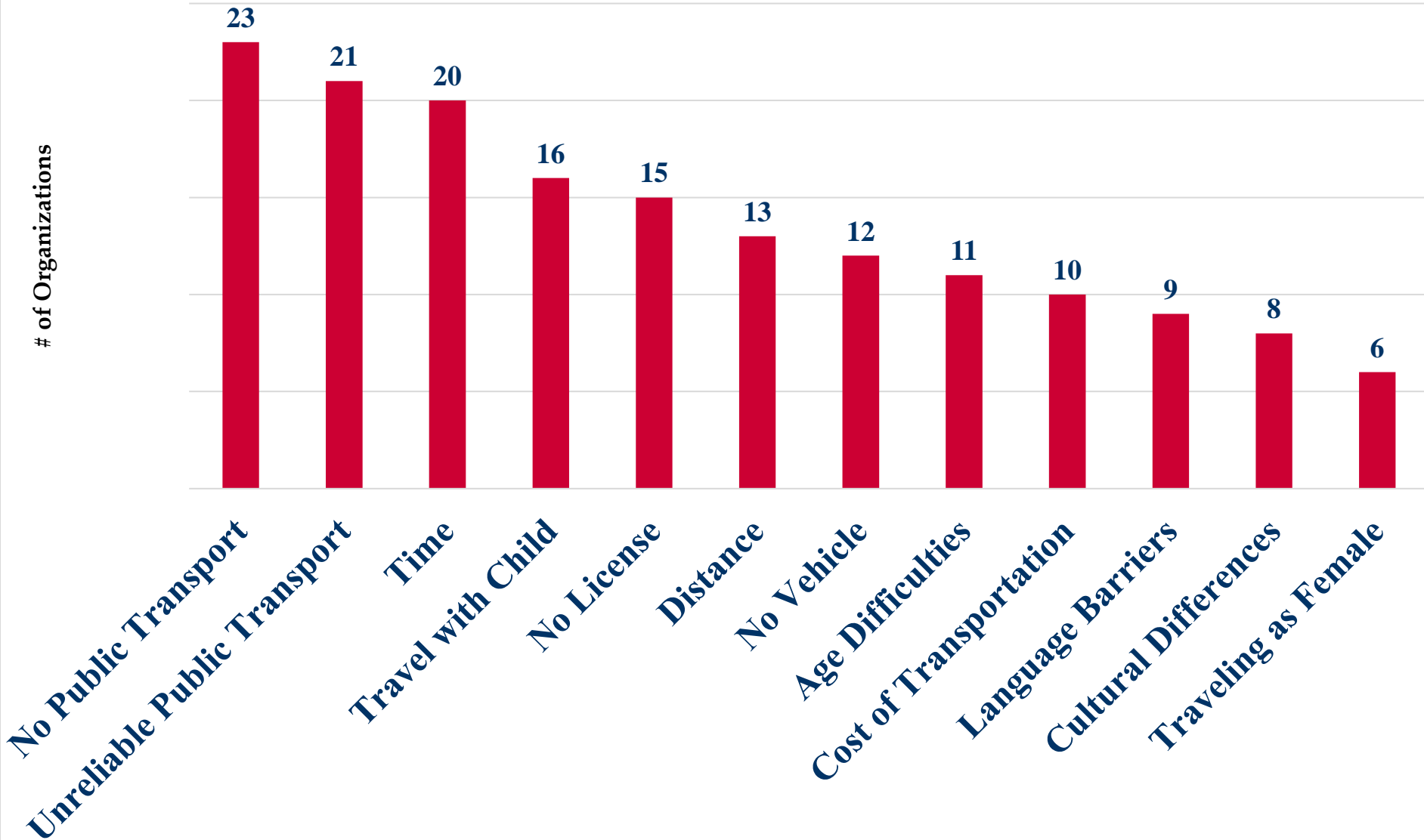
Reported Circumstance	Assistance Paying Rent	Affordable Housing	Emergency Shelter	Help Paying Utilities
Children	12	7	9	9
<b>Eviction</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>
Foreclosure	3	3	3	0
Medical Payments	10	5	8	10
<b>Sudden Job Loss</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>
Landlord Issues	10	7	8	5
Too Expensive	9	9	10	7
Need Mental Health Assistance	11	6	9	6
Policy Changes	5	3	5	4
Substance Abuse	11	10	9	10
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>

# Key Findings: Barriers to Service Access

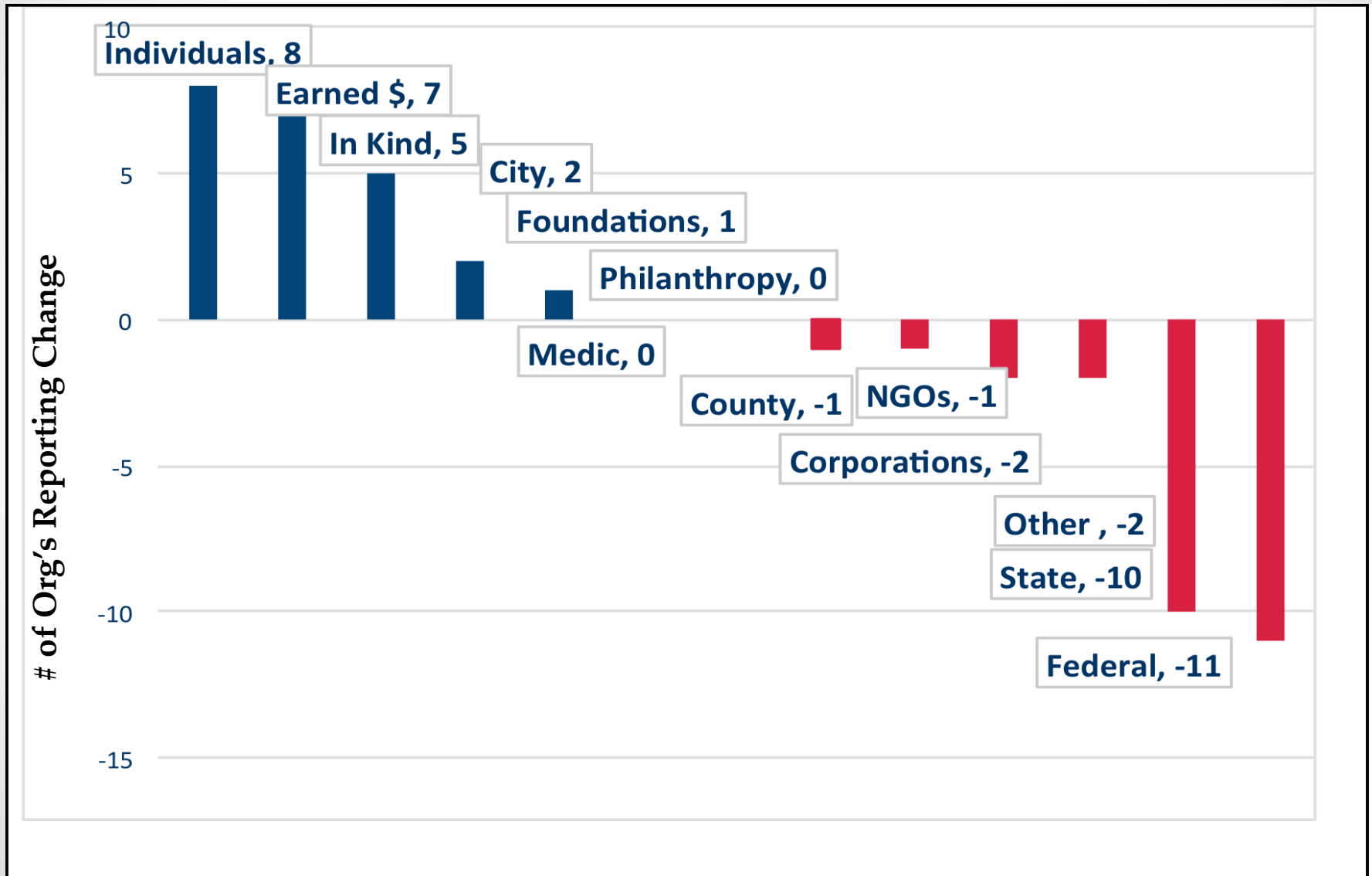




# Key Findings: Transportation Barriers



# Key Findings: Changes in Funding



# Summary

- Housing is largest service in demand, but few organizations are currently providing these.
- Housing Need is most often triggered by sudden job losses, unemployment, and eviction
- Access to nonprofit services is limited by challenges associated with public transportation
- Federal and state sources of funding are significantly in decline, while individual giving is up