



# Strengthening Stark

Commissioned and issued by Stark Community Foundation in 2017 at the request of the Stark Civic Group, **Strengthening Stark** is a **clear-eyed assessment** of the current **economic and social health** of Stark County. The report examines **key issues** that shape the county's vibrancy. It recommends **specific actions** to help **reverse downward trends** and transform Stark into a **growing and more prosperous community**.

## KEY FINDINGS



### POPULATION

By 2040, Stark County's **population** is expected to drop to 355,500 – a **decline of 6%** since 2000.



### JOB ACCESS

**Nearly 40%** of Stark County's working residents **leave the county** to access their job.



### EDUCATION

By 2020, nearly two-thirds of all jobs are projected to require a post-secondary credential or higher in the U.S., but presently **less than 30%** of Stark residents have at least an **associate's degree**.



### TRANSPORTATION

Stark residents **spend a higher percentage** of their income, **28%**, on transportation, than do residents of Northeast Ohio's two other most populous counties, Cuyahoga and Summit.



### BUSINESS

The **number of businesses** in Stark County **declined** from 6,997 in 2011 to 6,807 in 2015.



### EMPLOYMENT

**Employment** in companies that are younger than five years old **fell 28.5%** between 2010 and 2015.

Without an **aggressive, new approach to economic development**, Stark County will continue to get **smaller, older and poorer**. Public officials, business owners, residents, students, nonprofits and foundations must **join forces** to make our community **stronger** and **better** for years to come.

To read the full report and learn how you can get involved, visit:

[www.starkcf.org/strengtheningstark](http://www.starkcf.org/strengtheningstark)