Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

DEFINING INNOVATIVE & EQUITABLE STRATEGIES

Poverty Prevention Summary Report

Commissioned by: Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department

RESEARCH BY: HMA COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

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Executive Summary

Of the four million people who call the City of Los Angeles home, almost 800,000 live below the Federal poverty line[1]. In order to stimulate new thinking around addressing the crisis of poverty, Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and HCIDLA convened the inaugural Los Angeles Poverty Prevention Summit. HMA Community Strategies worked with HCIDLA to facilitate the interactive event and produce the following policy recommendations report. The report is a summary, which synthesizes the ideas generated from the summit into recommendations aimed at reducing poverty in Los Angeles.

Numerous City-led poverty reduction initiatives are already underway including building rapid transit lines in low income neighborhoods, expanding affordable housing, raising the minimum wage, creating a Children's Savings Accounts to encourage college attendance, providing free community college in Los Angeles, enhancing services through the City's FamilySource System, increasing the number of domestic violence shelters and funding the first of its kind shelters for human trafficking survivors.

Through panels and facilitated table discussions, summit attendees outlined approaches to accelerate current poverty prevention efforts in Los Angeles. Based on analysis of summit data, immediate actions should consider a comprehensive streamlining of the City's collective response in order to substantively reduce poverty and thereby risks towards homelessness. This includes increasing capacity for public-private strategic partnerships, as well as coordination between City and County to generate a greater Collective Impact. The following are key findings:

- Although cities must continue to use the Federal Poverty Level in a Federal funding environment, a more multi-dimensional view of poverty could facilitate a better understanding of causality and development of inclusive, regionally responsive, and equitable strategies.
- Prioritizing and engaging underserved groups who are disproportionately experiencing poverty in the development of poverty prevention strategies can help to expand meaningful partnerships to address disparities.
- Aligning closely with models implemented by major cities such as Collective Impact and place-based approaches were noted as important pillars of success. There is an opportunity for a coordinated strategy engaging multiple sectors through these models in order to improve service delivery systems and provide holistic services to individuals and families.
- Summit and focus group attendees proposed a variety of solutions to identified gaps and challenges, and suggested that future poverty prevention efforts in Los Angeles should consider strategic place-based investments, sustainable financing, and coordination of funding streams.
- Summit data suggests a need for comprehensive asset / resource mapping, expanded outreach, streamlined intake and service delivery, and increased capacity for culturally appropriate services and relevant resources.

Based on these findings, the following are recommendations for moving forward:

[1] "American Community Survey, 2017 Five Year Estimates, Table S1701". American Community Survey. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk (October 2019).

1. Commit to reducing poverty by 2030 and set poverty reduction goals to enhance pathways towards economic resilience. Leveraging existing assets and recent initiatives, the city needs to expand its commitment to substantially reducing poverty by 2030, while increasing economic resilience for low income families and its most vulnerable residents. Goals must include a clear metrics to measure progress and make adjustments annually.

2. Align current Citywide poverty reduction efforts and develop a strategic plan to include cross-sector partners. The City should adopt an LA-specific poverty metric, and formulate Citywide Five-year Strategic Plan aimed at aligning City efforts while also coordinating with strategic partners at the County and State levels to maximize impact. Through a City-led, multi-stakeholder effort, we can take a bold step towards equity and improve the well-being and economic upward mobility of all Angelenos.

I. Background

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell (13th District) and the Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department (HICDLA), in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Commission on Community and Family Services (CCFS) and Community Action Board (CAB), convened a day-long summit on September 20th, 2019 to bring together key stakeholders on poverty prevention. Through a combination of speakers, panel discussions, and roundtable breakout sessions, the summit served as an opportunity to not only demonstrate City leadership around issues of equity, poverty prevention, and its role in fostering economic opportunities for Angelenos, but also facilitate a dialogue with the community to respond to leadership efforts and brainstorm new solutions. The summit ultimately aimed to lay the groundwork for a long-term Citywide strategy with increased partnership and coordination efforts to alleviate poverty and increase equity throughout Los Angeles.

"Los Angeles has many reasons to feel proud. We need to do more...our work is far from over."
--Mayor Eric Garcetti

II. Introduction

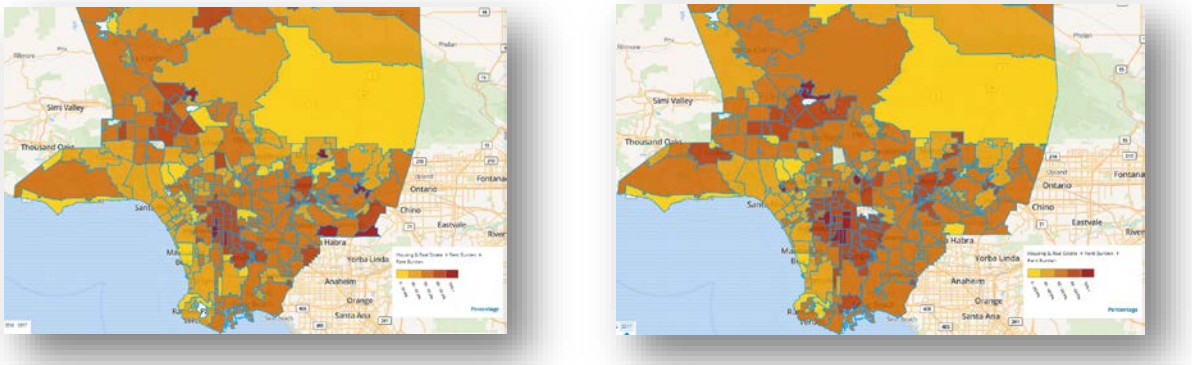
Of the four million people who call the City of Los Angeles home, almost 800,000 live below the Federal poverty line[2]. Not only do 20.4% of Angelenos live below the poverty line, but 58% of Los Angeles renters are "rent-burdened" (spending more than 30% of their income on rent),[3] 30% are severely rent-burdened

[2] "American Community Survey, 2017 Five Year Estimates, Table S1701". American Community Survey. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk (October 2019).

[3] Goulding, M. "Rising Rent Burden in Los Angeles". USC Sol Price Center for Social Innovation. https://usc.data.socrata.com/stories/s/Rising-Rent-Burden-in-Los-Angeles/4wjy-s7d9/ (December 2019).

(spending more than 50% of their income on rent)[4] and the number of Angelenos experiencing homelessness continues to increase despite a significant infusion of local resources[5].

Figure 1: Rent Burden in 2010 (Left) vs. 2017 (Right) in Los Angeles[6]



In light of such staggering numbers, the City of Los Angeles was compelled to stimulate new thinking around addressing the crisis of poverty by organizing the inaugural Los Angeles Poverty Summit. Spearheaded by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and HCIDLA, the summit convened key stakeholders to develop innovative strategies for poverty prevention. HMA Community Strategies worked with HCIDLA to produce a human centered process design that engaged stakeholders from multiple sectors including the public sector, policy, nonprofits/ service providers, business, philanthropy, academia, finance, education, and individuals with lived experience of homelessness and poverty (See Appendix A). HCIDLA was tasked with the production of a policy recommendations report to inform Citywide actions. The following report synthesizes the ideas generated from this event into recommendations that will inform action toward ending poverty in Los Angeles.

"Let's help everyone realize in their life what is possible…let's do that in theory, in practice, and in policy for everyone in Los Angeles."—Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell

Poverty Prevention in Los Angeles: Current Initiatives

There are several City-led antipoverty initiatives currently underway. During the inaugural summit, Mayor Eric Garcetti highlighted building rapid transit lines to create 787,000 jobs, expanding affordable housing by 15,000 units, raising the minimum wage (benefitting 550,000 people), free community college in Los Angeles, the city's FamilySource System serving over 44,000 clients in the community through a network of 16 centers, increasing the number of domestic violence shelters and funding the first of its kind shelters for human trafficking survivors.

[4] Goulding, M. "Rising Rent Burden in Los Angeles". USC Sol Price Center for Social Innovation. https://usc.data.socrata.com/stories/s/Rising-Rent-Burden-in-Los-Angeles/4wjy-s7d9/ (December 2019).

[5] "2019 LAHSA Homeless Count by City." Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. https://www.lahsa.org/data?id=13-2019-homeless-count-by-community-city (December 2019).

[6] "USC Price Center for Social Innovation- Neighborhood Data For Social Change". USC Sol Price Center. https://ladata.myneighborhooddata.org (December 2019).

In 2017, the City developed the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) Plan, led by HCIDLA and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA). The AFH includes six overarching goals along with 50 strategies to address discrimination, poverty prevention, racial and ethnic segregation, and equity issues. Outcomes to date include the City's commitment of $807 million in Proposition HHH dollars to fund 79 supportive housing developments, prioritizing new affordable housing construction and preservation with Affordable Housing Linkage Fee revenues, and homeownership purchase assistance loans. The 2017 AFH Housing Plan can be found at https://hcidla.lacity.org/assessment-fair-housing.

"Not everyone living in poverty is homeless. But everyone who lives in poverty is at risk of becoming homeless." —Rushmore Cervantes, HCIDLA General Manager

In terms of the City's current agenda for poverty prevention and intervention, the HCIDLA 2018-2021 Strategic Plan identifies ten strategic goals: 1) enhance role in reducing homelessness; 2) increase affordable and workforce housing stock; 3) ensure preservation of existing affordable housing; 4) accelerate neighborhood improvement investment; 5) promote the educational and economic empowerment of residents; 6) expand access to affordable housing for vulnerable populations; 7) improve external communication and customer service; 8) invest in workforce capacity, capability, and morale; 9) improve data quality and accessibility; and 10) increase disaster preparedness.

Additionally, spearheaded by Councilmember David Ryu, the City of LA has initiated a Children's Savings Account (CSA) initiative, which allows for a matching savings account for college enrollment, to encourage college attendance for low income children enrolled in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and affiliated charter schools. The program has support from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as well as the L.A. Unified School Board and continues to move forward. Initial funding in the amount of $300K has been approved through the Consolidated Plan funds to build the operational infrastructure and aims to phase students in starting with 1st graders. During the summit, Councilmember Paul Koretz also shared details on the City's right-to-counsel initiative, referred to as the Eviction Defense Program. This pilot program, with an initial $3 million in funding, will provide legal representation to tenants facing eviction.

Homeless prevention efforts are also underway with City Council approving $1 million to support homeless prevention programing, which will be managed through the City's FamilySource System. The Homeless Prevention Program is an expansion of the County's Solid Ground Project.

At the state level, State Treasurer Fiona Ma shared details on the CalSavers and CalABLE Savings plan. The CalSavers program, which launched to all eligible employers on July 1, 2019, offers employees a completely voluntary, low cost, portable retirement savings vehicle. The CalABLE Savings Plan, which opened on December 18, 2018, allows Californians and out-of-state residents the ability to save for disability-related expenses by putting money in tax-advantaged investments, while protecting their eligibility for means-tested public benefits programs.

III. Research & Case Study Analysis

A review of current literature emphasizes the complexity of urban poverty and the need for multi-level intervention to achieve meaningful change. There are many emerging practices and frameworks that can

guide and maximize city government efforts despite the constraints of federal and state policy and funding environments that cities must operate within.

Based on a large body of research linking neighborhood conditions with persistent intergenerational poverty[7], the past century of antipoverty efforts is characterized by "place-based" initiatives focusing on neighborhoods where poverty is highly concentrated. The Urban Institute defines the next generation of antipoverty strategy as "place-conscious" rather than "place-based", recognizing the value of focusing efforts locally while being less constrained by specific neighborhood boundaries and more aligned with broader regional prospects. Five key insights form a guiding framework for "place-conscious" work[8]:

1. Expand opportunities within local neighborhoods while working to connect residents with city and regional opportunities that may lie outside their immediate neighborhoods.
2. Work horizontally in neighborhoods to integrate efforts across policy domains while also working vertically to activate efforts at city, state, and federal policy levels.
3. Facilitate synergistic partnerships between organizations with similar missions to maximize impact rather than placing the onus on any single entity.
4. Collaborate to define a set of shared goals and measure and track progress accordingly.
5. Recognize and account for the high degree of residential mobility among people experiencing poverty.

Many of these key insights are aligned with the Collective Impact framework[9], which also includes a set of five core principles (Figure 2). As an adaptive, complex social problem with no known answer, poverty prevention requires the type of continuous learning and behavior change from all involved stakeholders that Collective Impact encourages.

Figure 2: Collective Impact Core Principles

Collective Impact provides a "centralized infrastructure, a dedicated staff, and a structured process that leads to a common agenda, shared measurement, continuous communication, and mutually reinforcing activities among all participants." Thereby, it can often have significant positive results without the requirement of new resources or money. It aims to provide a general framework for increasing cross sector collaboration to effect large-scale social change, while "place-conscious" insights provide more nuanced guidance specific to urban poverty reduction.

One comparative review of five American cities' antipoverty efforts indicates collaboration and "backbone support" leadership as key ingredients to success. All five cities engaged stakeholders from government,

[7] Aron, Laudan Y., Wendy Jacobson, and Margery Austin Turner. (2013). *Addressing Deep and Persistent Poverty: A Framework for Philanthropic Planning and Investment.* Washington, DC: Urban Institute.

[8] Aron, Laudan Y., Peter Edelman, Erika Poethig, and Margery Austin Turner. (2014). *Tackling Persistent Poverty in Distressed Urban Neighborhoods History, Principles, and Strategies for Philanthropic Investment.* Washington, DC: Urban Institute.

[9] Christens, B. D., & Inzeo, P. T. (2015). Widening the view: situating collective impact among frameworks for community-led change. Community Development, 46(4), 420-435.

nonprofit and for-profit sectors[10]. Such multidisciplinary collaboration was essential to developing and prioritizing regionally adaptive strategies, and inclusion of the private sector proved particularly crucial to creating strong workforce development strategies. Additionally, several cities emphasized city government playing an active leadership role as crucial for bringing attention to the issue of poverty, indicating long-term commitment to the effort, and identifying necessary resources. The most common target area for efforts was workforce development, and several cities also focused on neighborhood development and safety, housing, and early childhood education. Lessons learned from eight of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities echo similar themes of collaboration, continuous dialogue, and strong leadership with a specific racial equity lens.[11]

When considering the size, diversity, and challenges of Los Angeles, New York City emerges as the city most relevant for case study regarding antipoverty initiatives. NYC Opportunity, an initiative of the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity, is a strategy encompassing five inter-related disciplines: research, service design, digital products, data integration, and programs and evaluation[12]. With the goal of moving 800,000 people out of poverty or near poverty by 2025, the initiative has seen significant success; the Mayor's office estimates that 236,500 fewer people were at or near poverty in 2017 than would have been in 2013. The office credits several components of the city initiative for this reduction including raising the minimum wage, universal pre-k, increasing affordable housing capacity, and workforce development programming.

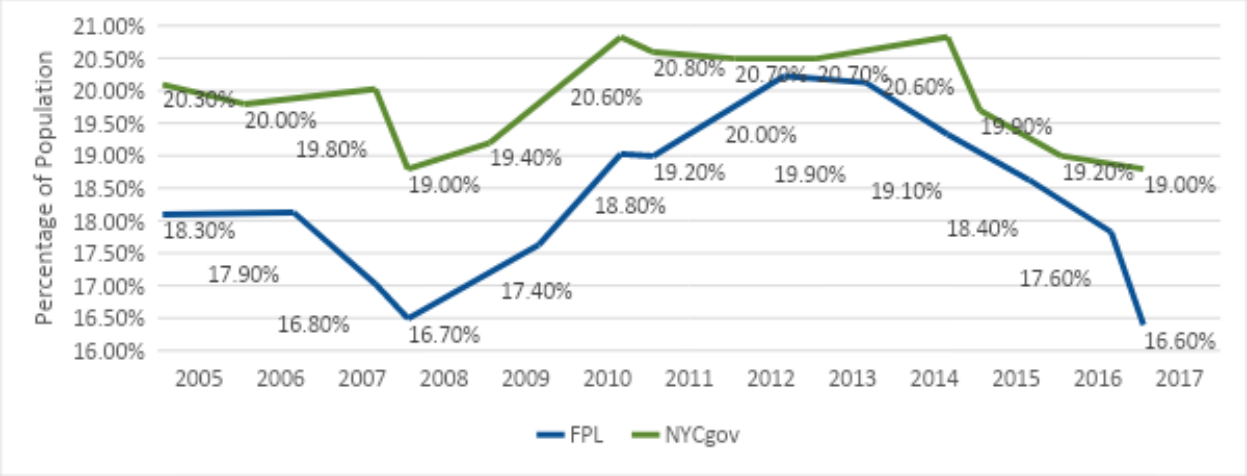
One key component of NYC Opportunity is NYCgov, the city's supplemental poverty metric used to drive decision making and programming. Going beyond the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)—which only incorporates pre-tax cash as income and has been criticized for not reflecting urban living costs—NYCgov values benefits such as food stamps and housing assistance as income, while also incorporating expenditures on housing, utilities, clothing, and out-of-pocket medical care in addition to food. While this expanded definition cannot replace the FPL for means-tested Federally funded programs, the metric allows for identifying how specific subgroups might be more burdened by certain expenses (e.g. seniors and medical care) and capturing the effect of safety-net programs on poverty reduction.

[10] Mayer, B., and J. Smith. 2016. "A Multi-City Comparison of Poverty Reduction Strategies: What Can Tucson Learn From Other Cities?" The Making Action Possible Dashboard Project, White Paper #1. University of Arizona College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

[11] Fitzgibbons, J., & Mitchell, C. (2019). Just urban futures? Exploring equity in "100 Resilient Cities". *World Development*, 122, 648-659.

[12] New York City Government Poverty Measure 2017: An Annual Report from the Office of the Mayor. (2019, April). https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/opportunity/pdf/19_poverty_measure_report.pdf (November 2019).

Chart 1. FPL vs NYCgov Poverty Rates, 2005-2017[13]



While the City of Los Angeles has not adopted any supplemental poverty metric, the Public Policy Institute of California and the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality did develop the California Poverty Measure (CPM), which accounts for cost of living differences and incorporates safety net benefits much like NYCgov[14].

Additionally, United Way of California created the Real Cost Measure (RCM), which factors in costs of housing, food, health care, childcare, transportation and other basic needs[15]. Figure 3[16] shows an example budget used to determine RCM thresholds, reflecting practical household expenses for a family of four.

Los Angeles's high cost of living indicates significantly higher rates of poverty across the region; in many Los Angeles neighborhoods, the RCM rate is more than double that of the FPL (Chart 2).

Figure 3: Real Cost Measure Budget (LA County)

	Monthly	Annually
Housing	$1,545	$18,540
Child care:	$1,116	$13,392
Food:	$1,122	$13,464
Health care:	$819	$9,828
Transportation:	$958	$11,496
Miscellaneous:	$556	$6,672
Taxes:	$1,211	$14,532
	$7,327	**$87,924**

It takes **$7,327/mo** (after taxes), on average, for a **4-person household** to make ends meet in **Los Angeles County**, or **$87,924 per year**.

For information on additional poverty measures presented during the summit (including the American Human Development (HD) Index developed by Measure of America and the Milken Institute State Technology and Science Index) please see Appendix B.

[13] "American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity". https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/opportunity/pdf/19_poverty_measure_report.pdf (November 2019).

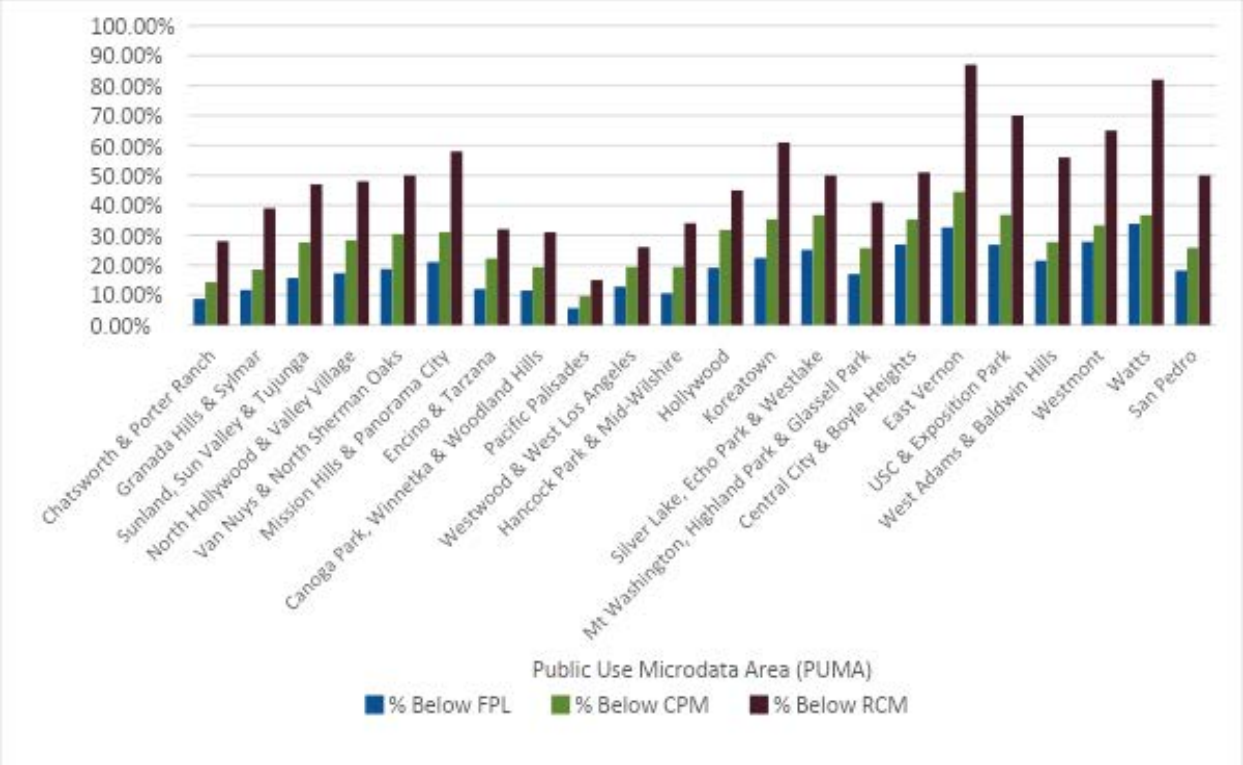
[14] Bohn, S., Danielson, C., Levin, M., Mattingly, M., & Wimer, C. (2013). The California poverty measure: A new look at the social safety net. San Francisco, CA*: Public Policy Institute of California*.

[15] Struggling to Stay Afloat: The Real Cost Measure in California (June 2019). *United Ways of California*.

[16] "Household Budgets". https://www.unitedwaysca.org/realcost/household-budgets. (November 2019).

"The measure of our compassion lies not in our service of those on the margins but only in our willingness to see our self in kinship with them." --Fr. Greg Boyle

Chart 2. FPL vs RCM and CPM Rates in the City of Los Angeles[17]



IV. Process & Methodology

The summit provided a human centered approach and challenged new thinking around the complexity of poverty. Participants were representative of multi-sectorial expertise to include individuals with lived experiences, service providers, policy makers, philanthropy, private sector, academic experts, health care providers, and elected officials. The day included a variety of speakers, panels, and breakout sessions allowing attendees to respond to the information that was presented and generate ideas. For a complete list of speakers and panelists, please refer to the full summit agenda in Appendix C.

[17] "PPIC Data Set: Poverty Across California, 2015-17; United Way Real Cost Measure Dashboard (2017 Analysis)". http://www.unitedwaysca.org/realcost. (November 2019).

Attendees were given seating assignments in order to encourage multiple perspectives and ensure diverse

expertise at each table. For a complete list of breakout session questions, see Appendix D. To view the complete collection of data presented during the summit, please see Appendix B.

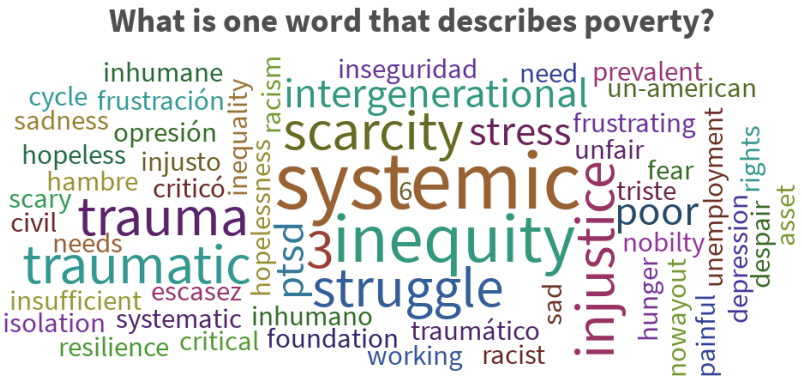
In addition, to the data collected during the summit both during roundtable discussions as well as survey instruments, and focus groups were incorporated as a follow-up to the summit. The following are the data sources that informed the analysis:

1	2	3	4	5
Speaker and panelist transcripts	Breakout session notes (22 groups)	Two group polls using PollEverywhere software: 1) "What is one word that describes poverty?" 2)" On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the best, how well do you think the current system serves Angelenos experiencing poverty?"	Survey questionnaire (see Appendix E) that elicited individual feedback on the conference structure as well as individual perspectives regarding poverty prevention (87 responses out of 100 attendees)	Three focus groups: ■ LAUSD (October 29th, 2019) ■ Philanthropy (October 30th, 2019) ■ Public Health (November 12th, 2019)

Themes were identified and coded across speakers and panel transcripts, breakout session notes, and survey responses, with a specific focus on identified gaps and challenges as well as future goals and proposed solutions. Based on these identified themes, follow-up focus groups were identified in order to garner more in-depth feedback on challenges and solutions.

V. Summit Analysis

Based on analysis of data gathered during the summit as well as focus groups, a clear set of themes and priority areas emerged to collectively form a working agenda that can inform the future of poverty reduction strategies in Los Angeles.

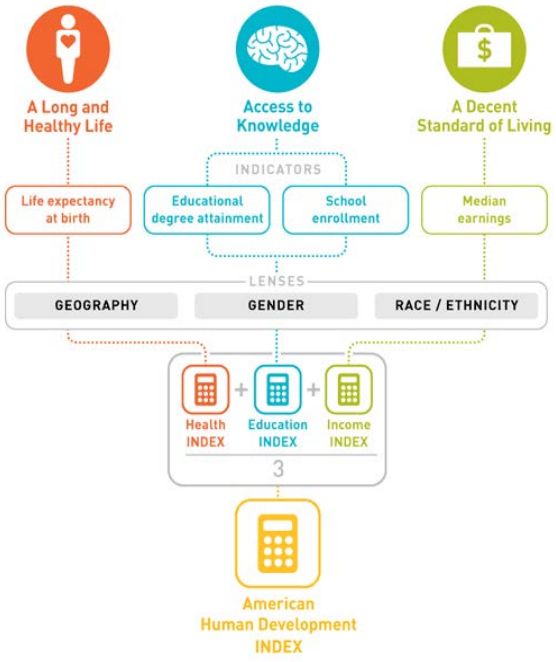


Reframing Poverty: Metrics and Definitions

Summit attendees desired more depth behind numbers on poverty, including qualitative stories and more exploration on the drivers of poverty rates in order to identify solutions. Participants discussed the limitations of measuring poverty in purely monetary terms, pointing to issues such the "benefits cliff" as indicative of a need to consider poverty in terms of long-term access to opportunity. Both panelists and attendees expressed a need for a more multidimensional understanding of poverty that incorporates historical understanding in order to inform antipoverty strategy and tackle underlying structural issues such as mass incarceration and housing and labor market discrimination.

Tables specifically discussed experiences of trauma (including adverse childhood experiences and racism), exposure to environmental pollutants, mental health, social capital, political efficacy, safety, and access to economic opportunity and resources such as education, transportation and health care as not being accounted for in official poverty thresholds. These mirror several of the domains discussed during the data panel, including the American HD Index measures of opportunity (Figure 4) and well-being and the Milken Institute State Technology and Science Index.

Figure 4: American HD Index



In order to eliminate disparities, speakers and attendees highlighted the importance of examining data by demographic groups and paying particular attention to underserved groups who are often not captured in data. In order to move toward sustainable solutions, participants expressed a desire to look beyond rates and identify the specific challenges and needs of communities.

Conclusion: *Although cities must continue to use the FPL in a Federal funding environment, summit data suggests value in a more multidimensional view of poverty in order to gain a better understanding of causality and develop inclusive, regionally responsive, and equitable strategies.*

Achieving Equity

The urgency for equitable solutions to poverty reduction and prevention was a common theme throughout the summit, emphasized by panelists and speakers and discussed in depth during the breakout sessions. Both sets of panelists drove home the reality of underserved groups not only disproportionately experiencing poverty, but also facing more barriers to achieving well-being. Attendees stated that data collection efforts should incorporate more of a focus on underserved groups, and specifically track access to resources and services by demographics.

Most commonly, summit participants expressed a need to form more meaningful partnerships with marginalized communities, both in terms of understanding their stories and engaging them in decision making. Groups discussed many ideas for community engagement that align with the Collective Impact and Resilient Cities principles of continuous communication, open dialogue, and community partnerships. Several groups proposed outreach and partnership with local community leaders in order to open lines of communication and increase awareness of resources. Attendees also discussed a need for more culturally and linguistically relevant services, as well as outreach and peer mentoring.

Political empowerment was also a key theme in discussion. Beyond initiatives such as voter registration campaigns, summit speakers, panelists, and attendees explicitly called for more representation of underserved groups and minorities in government and highlighted a need to elevate lived experience as not just valuable but crucial for effective leadership, particularly in the arena of poverty prevention.

Conclusion: *Prioritizing and engaging underserved groups who are disproportionately experiencing poverty in the development of poverty prevention strategies can help to expand meaningful partnerships to address disparities.*

System Coordination and Alignment

In order to significantly impact poverty, summit attendees emphasized the importance of a collaborative, multi-disciplinary strategy that is aligned across levels of government. Attendees particularly highlighted a lack of coordination between City and County governments as a barrier to effective progress. During table discussions, almost all tables expressed a desire for greater City and County alignment, which specific suggestions including developing a set of shared goals, discussing investment priorities, collaborating on funding, and opening lines of communication between City Council and the Board of Supervisors.

Summit attendees and participants in the philanthropy focus group also expressed a need for wider multi-sector collaboration engaging government, nonprofit, and private sectors (including the business and philanthropic communities). Many expressed a desire for establishing or expanding existing formal coalitions, continued convening, and more opportunities for communication. This could help with strategizing and implementing ideas, as well as coordination of resources and services. Collaboration was cited as key to efficient funding, with many summit and focus group participants expressing a need for shared agenda setting in funding and budgeting, setting measurable goals, and incentives for collaborative funding efforts.

In terms of specific multi-sector partnerships, public-private partnerships were a common theme. One suggestion involved knowledge sharing between non-profits and government, with the goal of government implementing non-profit innovations at scale (e.g. the LIFT program presented during the event). Stakeholders also suggested various forms of public-private partnerships with the financial and

business community on housing and land use initiatives, sustainable financing, and workforce development programs in order to build effective and sustainable employment pipelines.

In terms of coordination and alignment in service delivery, stakeholders expressed a need for more person-centered, hub-based service delivery that provides holistic services to individuals and families.

Conclusion: *Aligning closely with models implemented by major cities such as Collective Impact and place-based approaches were noted as important pillars of success. There is an opportunity for a coordinated strategy engaging multiple sectors through these models in order to improve service delivery systems and provide holistic services to individuals and families.*

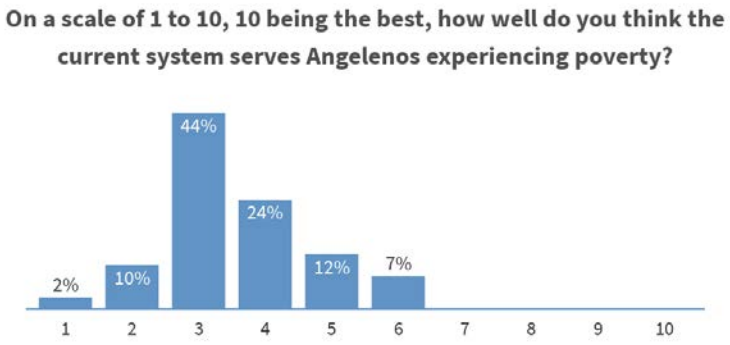
Challenges and Resource Gaps

Summit attendees expressed numerous challenges and gaps in the current system serving Angelenos experiencing poverty, most commonly in the areas of housing, health, education, workforce development, financing, and policy.

In the individual survey, participants were asked to choose the top two gaps in poverty services from a set of seven choices. Chart 3 depicts the results in descending order:

Chart 3: Top Gaps in Poverty Services (Summit Attendee Survey)

Participants identified systemic barriers as the top gap/ challenge, and table discussions touched on several specific systemic barriers including discrimination, housing market and zoning challenges, gentrification, CEQA, and challenges with Federal fixed income assistance such as SSI.



Housing

Above all, a common theme that ran across discussion during the summit was the overlap between poverty and homelessness—while not all who experience poverty are experiencing homelessness, poverty can be considered the biggest risk factor for housing instability. Participants specifically discussed the City's plan for fair housing during table discussions and ways that it could be improved. Increasing affordable housing capacity was identified as

a top priority for addressing homelessness and poverty, with specific suggestions including reexamining time limits for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers due to long waiting lists and increasing the Section 8 HCV fair market rent and payment caps to reflect market rates, targeted community outreach to address NIMBY issues with siting, partnering with developers to decrease costs and identify incentives to build affordable housing, dedicating more resources to eviction prevention and outreach to landlords to increase awareness of available resources, dedicating more housing resources to underserved groups, revisiting height restrictions on buildings and making use of existing vacant buildings, shared housing models such as pairing transition-age youth (TAY) with seniors, and following up on "housing first" policies to ensure those who move into permanent housing continue to receive the support they need to maintain housing. In response to the "Untold Stories" panel, attendees discussed homelessness prevention as a key strategy to addressing the challenges that accompany high residential mobility, particularly for children who must change schools frequently due to unstable housing.

Education/ Early Childhood Education

During the data panel, investment in early childhood education was presented as a "high return on investment" area for poverty prevention due to age 0-5 being a critical time for development, an area of opportunity to provide stability for children, and a critical access point to reach families. Panelists pointed to education and mentorship through schools as key to breaking the cycle of poverty, and attendees emphasized access to quality education as a priority area for antipoverty strategy.

Schools also emerged as an area of opportunity for integrated social service delivery for families, as well as health and mental health services for children. This aligns with an overall theme throughout the day's discussion of bringing services to people where they are. Participants discussed a need to increase teacher salaries while also implementing more trauma-informed training in schools and suggested training teachers in resource navigation and outreach.

In order to increase access to higher education, summit participants suggested targeted outreach to underrepresented groups, investing more resources in financial aid and expanding awareness of existing resources, investing more resources in navigating the college application and financial aid process, expanding internship opportunities for students, and expanding STEM opportunities in the public school curriculum and pipelines for future tech jobs market. Lack of trusted adult mentorship came up as a key barrier for students pursuing higher education opportunities, and adult relationships were identified as a strong protective factor. Attendees also identified a need for more support services for parents pursuing education, which can be considered an investment in human capital.

Workforce Development

Aside from concentrating efforts on building partnerships with the private sector to strengthen workforce development initiatives, summit attendees emphasized a need for job training programs to be more holistic and include services such as financial literacy training, childcare, transportation, legal services, mental health services, and potentially housing. Childcare was particularly cited as a need and can be considered a type of employment and human capital support for parents as it precludes the ability to search for and attend employment. Participants suggested expanding upon existing job training programs such as Homeboy Industries and FamilySource programming and strengthening these programs through private sector engagement in order to align job training and vocational training curricula to workforce needs as well as provide more opportunities for internships and apprenticeships. Areas of interest for vocational training included technology, graphic design, 3-D printing, culinary arts, and medical certification. Summit data suggests a need for continued discussion to identify skill gaps in the workforce and facilitate strategic partnerships between job training programs (such as those offered at FamilySource

Centers) and other community-based organizations to ensure access to wraparound services. These types of partnerships mirror key insights of "place-conscious" strategy.

In terms of barriers to employment, attendees discussed credit history and arrest records as top priority areas. Suggestions for overcoming these barriers included dedicating resources to expungement of records, partnering with the private sector to incentivize hiring those with criminal records, and creating pathways to employment within City government.

"We have to give the hand up and we have to keep the ladder there, and we have to make sure the rungs are ready for people to go and we have to have a pathway to the ladder."—Marqueece Harris-Dawson

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Health/ Health Services

The challenges of poverty were also examined through public health frame, with a recognition of the complexities of prevention approaches. Mental health services emerged as a top need based on summit data—participants expressed long wait times for services and a need for more mental health workforce development, and panelists also credited access to mental health services as key for overcoming trauma and ultimately breaking the cycle of poverty. Attendees suggested early intervention and co-located mental health services in trusted community locations such as schools and faith-based organizations in order to overcome stigma and emphasized the need for services to be trauma-informed and culturally relevant.

Public health experts who participated in the public health focus group, noted the need for a comprehensive and sustainable approaches to poverty. They pointed to a need for more outreach to increase access to health information and resources and called for an asset based approach in the public health/ health services sector that frames the pursuit of wellness in positive terms and incorporates social domains such as financial wellness. Community Health Workers or "*promotoras*" emerged as one potential solution to increase access to health services. In order to integrate health services with social determinants of health, including access to financial literacy, stakeholders suggested training for medical professionals on social determinants of health screening, and using technology platforms to better link referrals between community clinics and social services to facilitate wraparound care.

Strategic Partnerships and Opportunities

Summit attendees expressed a need for evidence-based strategies, investing in microenterprises to support small business in communities, incentivizing local hiring, expanding access to credit, savings programs for undocumented families, policies to address predatory lending, policies and resources to address challenges with eviction records and poor credit history while searching for housing, and investing in resources such as community gardens. Attendees suggested a need for more FamilySource Centers, and engaging County departments such as Public Health, Mental Health and Children and Family Services in place-conscious work.

Stakeholders suggested more partnerships and engagement with the philanthropic and business sectors to optimize investments and explore opportunities for braided funding. Based on summit data, there is a need for more research and conversation around targeted and sustainable investment and exploring strategies to incentivize private-sector funding. Generally, participants stated the need for more long-term, holistic investments in order to achieve lasting impact.

Similar sentiments were also expressed during the philanthropy focus groups. Sustainable, strategic, and well-coordinated funding efforts was central to expanding the impact of the philanthropic community in alleviating poverty. There was expressed interest in further collaborations among members of the philanthropic community to work with policy maker and other private business to better coordinate investments that have long-lasting and sustainable impacts.

Access and Safety

Given the geographic spread of Los Angeles, summit attendees frequently mentioned a need for improving public transportation and subsidizing the cost of transportation for people in poverty. Participants also identified a need for more resources to address food insecurity, subsidizing internet access, raising the minimum wage, partnering with parks and recreation departments to expand community and youth programming, targeted outreach to increase safety in communities, assistance with paying restitution and fees, traffic tickets, background and credit checks, and probation services.

Conclusion: *Summit and focus group attendees proposed a variety of solutions to identified gaps and challenges, but overall suggests that future antipoverty efforts in Los Angeles should consider strategic place-based investments, sustainable financing, and coordination of funding streams.*

Accessing Resources

Panelists and summit attendees cited a lack of awareness of resources as a top barrier to accessing services. Several attendees stated that more outreach is necessary in order to increase awareness, Attendees also stated that the current system of services is extremely difficult to navigate.

Many stakeholders suggested creating an app to serve as a resource navigation guide, and attendees also suggested targeted training for school staff and other community leaders could help with outreach and resource navigation.

In order to achieve a “no wrong door” approach to service delivery, participants suggested solutions such as a formal Citywide intake process, universal screening in schools, and continuous assessment to ensure access to services is maintained and remains responsive to needs. In order to ease the burden of applying for and enrolling in assistance, attendees suggested a need to reevaluate documentation and eligibility guidelines such as address, phone number, and proof of income. The process of enrollment in the Coordinated Entry System was specifically cited as extremely burdensome. Attendees also stated that the prioritization process for connecting individuals with services posed problems, often encouraging people to stay in unsafe situations to qualify for services. Participants suggested dedicating more resources to proactive and preventive services, potentially increasing return on investment.

Shame, stigma, and lack of trust were also identified as top barriers to accessing services. In order to address these barriers, stakeholders proposed expanding trauma-informed and implicit bias training opportunities for providers, outreach in schools (specifically reaching families through students), and more culturally and linguistically competent services.

Long wait lists for services also suggests that expanding resource and service capacity is necessary to increase access, and more data and research on those who are not connected with services could help identify other barriers to access.

Conclusion: *Summit data suggests a need for comprehensive asset/ resource mapping, expanded outreach, streamlined intake and service delivery, and increased capacity for culturally appropriate services and relevant resources.*

Attendee Commitments

At the end of the day, attendees were asked to identify steps that they are committed to taking both individually and collectively to address poverty. These commitments included:

- Continuing multi-sector conversations, networking, and developing relationships
- Community outreach
- Connecting with philanthropic and private sectors
- Developing relationships with local landlords
- Providing pro-bono services
- Volunteering in political campaigns
- Facilitating community partnerships
- Outreach on tenant and workers' rights
- Breaking down silos
- Increasing awareness of available resources
- Support community-based organizations
- Advocacy
- Being thoughtful about making meetings/ decision making more accessible to all members of the community
- Local hiring
- Engaging with community members with lived experience

VI. Recommendations

Leveraging the vibrant economic landscape and multicultural richness of the city, Los Angeles is poised to articulate a bold poverty-reduction goal and develop a framework to improve the well-being of families and economic upward mobility of its residents.

1. Commit to reducing poverty by 2030 and set poverty reduction goals to enhance pathways towards economic resilience.

Leveraging existing assets and recent initiatives, the city needs to expand its commitment to substantially reducing poverty by 2030, while increasing economic resilience for low income families and its most vulnerable residents. Goals must include a clear metrics to measure progress and make adjustments annually.

2. Align current Citywide poverty reduction efforts and develop a strategic plan to include cross-sector partners.

a) **Identify Current and Planned City Efforts:** Convene relevant City departments and commissions to outline various city efforts and assets. This will allow for correlation and streamlining of City efforts to improve coordination of policies, services, and funding streams. This effort should start by identifying existing City policies and programs which build on an equity framework (e.g. Green New Deal, Resilient LA) to reduce poverty.

b) **Adopt LA-specific poverty definition and metric:** Recommend the adoption of an LA-specific poverty definition, which captures specific needs that are relevant to the people of the city, while also defining a relevant metric framework that is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, the poverty reduction framework should encompass strategies to allow for future coordination and alignment with Los Angeles County and State of California efforts.

c) **Designate a "Backbone Support Organization" with designated staff to lead poverty prevention efforts**: Building on the momentum of the inaugural Poverty Prevention Summit, as well as current poverty prevention commitments, the City is well-positioned to convene a cross-sector body to provide a structured process that leads to a shared vision. This proposed body will have the functionality to streamline existing multiple city poverty prevention plans, convening strategic partners including but not limited to: community members with lived experience, Los Angeles County partners, philanthropy, private businesses, academics, and public health. Moreover, the designated support organization staff will be tasked with design and implementations of the strategic plan to include the five components of Collective Impact:

1. Establish an effective process to initiate Citywide alignment of poverty reduction efforts.
2. Set a shared agenda with a common understanding of the complexities around poverty and joint solutions.
3. Develop shared measures using the SDGs as a unifying metric across sectors in order to collect and share data and indicators to measure progress of poverty reduction goals annually.
4. Link mutually reinforcing activities and diverse initiatives which collectively contribute to attaining poverty prevention goals.
5. Develop trust among partners and encourage continuous communication.

Moreover, the planning body should seek to:

- Meaningfully engage community members from design through implementation.
- Leverage and build on strategic partnerships of public-private partners initiated through the Poverty Prevention Summit including philanthropy, public health, and government partners
- Map current assets and resources that are specific to the City of Los Angeles
- Develop an evaluation plan incorporating the components of Collective Impact
- Maintain continued multi-sector involvement during the five-years

VII. Conclusion

As best described by the participants of the summit, poverty is structural and characterized by systemic inequity, trauma, and scarcity. By bringing together a diverse array of key stakeholders to begin to examine equity and poverty, the City has taken an important step in laying the groundwork for increased partnership and coordination of efforts to achieve equity in the City of Los Angeles.

With numerous City initiatives already underway to alleviate poverty, the City of Los Angeles can accelerate these efforts by making a formal commitment to reducing poverty by 2030 and creating a city-wide framework guided by a Collective Impact approach. By harnessing existing resources and leveraging them through a multi-stakeholder effort, we can improve the wellbeing of families and increase economic upward mobility of all Angelenos.

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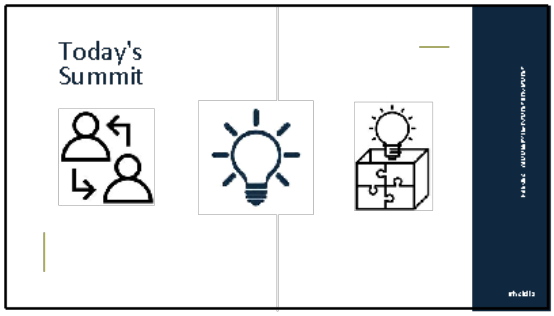
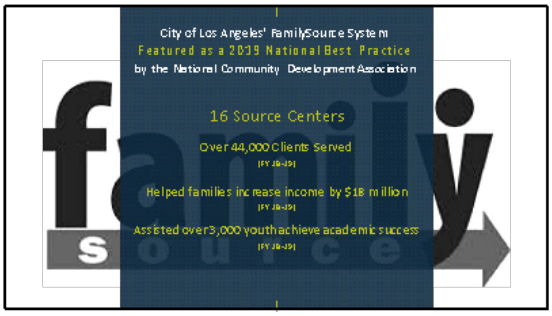
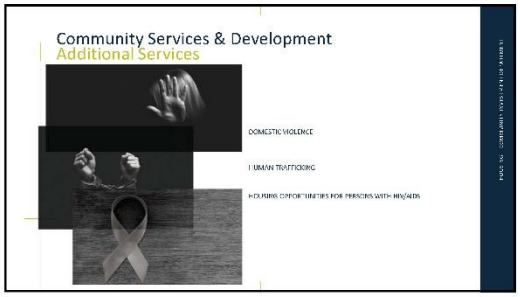
Appendix A: Stakeholders Invited

- 1736 Family Crisis Center
- AARP
- Affordable Housing Commission
- All Peoples Community Center
- Alliance for Children's Rights
- Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles
- Asian Pacific Community Fund
- Bank of America
- Barrio Action Youth & Family Center
- Barrio Planners Inc
- Bet Tzedek Legal Services
- BizFed
- Bresee Foundation
- Broadway Federal Bank
- California State Treasurer
- California Women's Law Center
- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
- Center for Muslim Mental Health and Islamic Psychology
- Center For The Pacific Asian Family
- Central City Association
- Central City Neighborhood Partners
- Chief Legislative Analyst Office /Council
- Citi Bank
- Citi Community Development
- City of Los Angeles
- Commission on Community and Family Services (CCFS)
- Commission on the Status of Women
- Community Action Board
- County of Los Angeles
- Harris-Dawson
- CPAF
- Crown Castle
- Disability Rights California
- Downtown Women's Center
- Economic and Workforce Development Department
- El Centro De Ayuda
- El Nido Family Centers
- Enterprise Community Partners
- Federal Public Defender's Office
- First 5 LA
- Foothill AIDS Project
- Gathers Strategies, Inc.
- Good Shepherd Shelter
- Goodwill Industries of Southern California
- Ground Up LA
- Grownupla.com
- Haven Hills
- HCIDLA General Manager
- HEART L.A.- Housing Equality & Advocacy Resource Team
- Hollywood Community Housing Corporation
- Homeboy Industries
- Homeless Advocate
- Human Relations Commission
- ILM Foundation
- Inclusive Action for the City
- Innercity Struggle
- Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center
- Key to the City
- Kids Alliance
- Koreatown Youth and Community Center
- KYCC
- County of Los Angeles County
- LA's BEST Afterschool Enrichment Program
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- LIFT-Los Angeles
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles City College Foundation
- Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission
- Los Angeles Community College District
- Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
- Los Angeles Unified School District
- Managed Career Solutions
- Mar Vista Family Center
- Measure of America
- Milken Institute
- Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County
- New Economics for Women
- Office of the Federal Public Defender Central District of California
- Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment
- Para Los Ninos
- PATH
- Prosperity Now
- Safe Place for Youth
- Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund
- Sanctuary of Hope
- Self-Help FCU
- Skid Row Housing Trust
- SRO Housing Corporation
- The TransLatin@ Coalition
- Toberman Neighborhood Center
- Toole Design
- United American Indian Involvement, Inc.
- United Parents and Students
- United Way of Greater Los Angeles
- Upholder Consulting
- USC Price Center for Social Innovation
- USC Sol Price School of Public Policy
- Vena Vena Handcrafted
- Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge & Services (WORKS)
- Workforce Development Board
- Youth Emerging Stronger
- Youth Policy Institute
- YWCA Greater Los Angeles

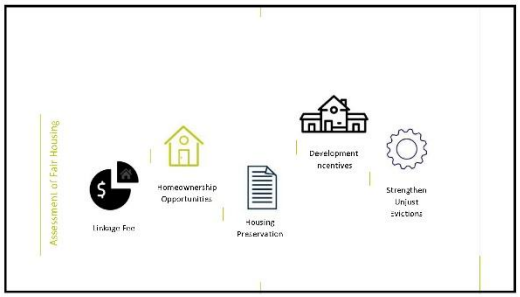
Appendix B: Summit Presentations

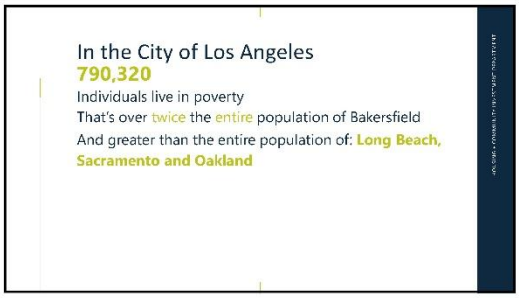


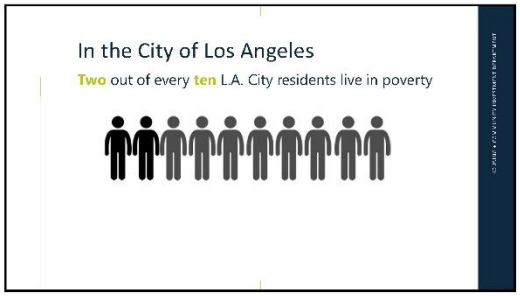



Community Services & Development
Additional Services
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS

STRATEGY
Policy Implementation through AFH
City's Assessment of Fair Housing Plan (AFH)
• Poverty Prevention
• Racial and Ethnic Segregation, and
• Equity Issues


Assessment of Fair Housing
Linkage Fee
Homeownership Opportunities
Housing Preservation
Development ncentives
Strengthen Unjust evictions

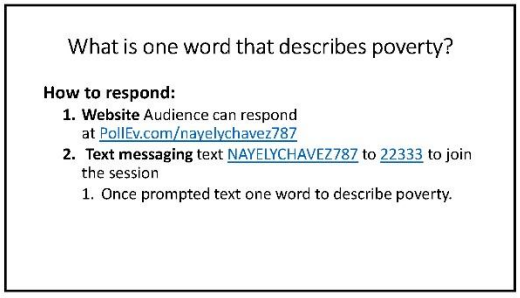

In the City of Los Angeles
790,320
Individuals live in poverty
That's over twice the entire population of Bakersfield
And greater than the entire population of: Long Beach, Sacramento and Oakland

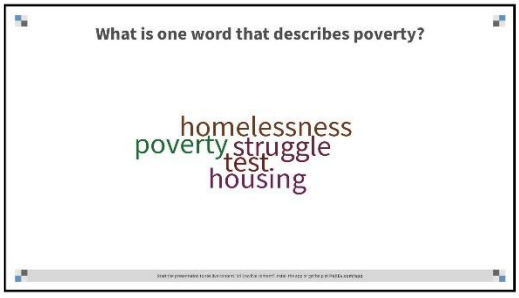

In the City of Los Angeles
Two out of every ten L.A. City residents live in poverty

Housing + Community Investement Department
Promoting livable and prosperous communities

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
Defining Innovative & Equitable Strategies
MITCH O'FARRELL
Eric Garcetti
citi
eliminating racism empowering women
ywca
greater los angeles
community Action Board
CCFS
EWDD
hcidla.lacity.org
#hcidla
#lapovertysummit

The Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department
in partnership with
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
present
Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
Defining Innovative & Equitable Strategies
#LApovertysummit
Eric Garcetti
MITCH O'FARRELL


What is one word that describes poverty?
How to respond:
1. Website Audience can respond at PollEv.com/nayelychavez787
2. Text messaging text NAYELYCHAVEZ787 to 22333 to join the session
1. Once prompted text one word to describe poverty.


What is one word that describes poverty?
homelessness
poverty
struggle
test
housing

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
Defining Innovative & Equitable Strategies
MITCH O'FARRELL
Eric Garcetti
citi
eliminating racism empowering women
ywca
greater los angeles
community Action Board
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The Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department
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Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
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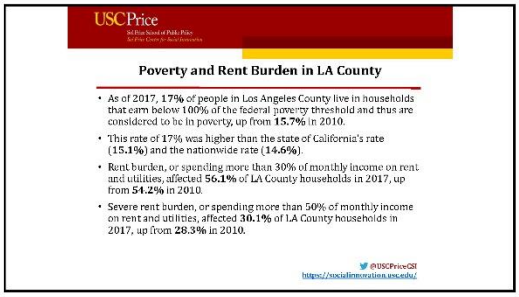
#LApovertysummit
Eric Garcetti
MITCH O'FARRELL

USC Price
Mayor's Poverty Summit
Roundtable Session 1:
Re-defining Poverty
Gary Painter
Sol Price Center for Social Innovation
University of Southern California
@USCPriceCSI
https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/


USC Price
Poverty and Rent Burden in LA County
As of 2017, 17% of people in Los Angeles County live in households that earn below 100% of the federal poverty threshold and thus are considered to be in poverty, up from 15.7% in 2010.
This rate of 17% was higher than the state of California's rate (15.1%) and the nationwide rate (14.6%).
Rent burden, or spending more than 30% of monthly income on rent and utilities, affected 56.1% of LA County households in 2017, up from 54.2% in 2010.
Severe rent burden, or spending more than 50% of monthly income on rent and utilities, affected 30.1% of LA County households in 2017, up from 28.3% in 2010.
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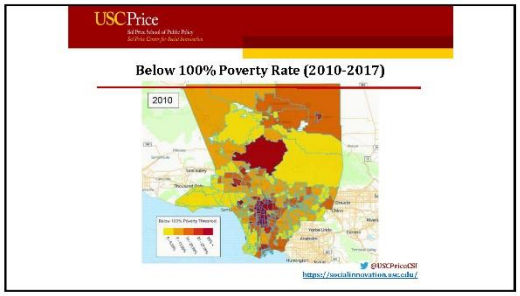
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Below 100% Poverty Rate (2010-2017)
2010
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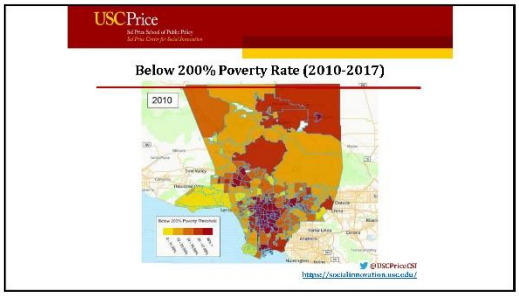
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Below 200% Poverty Rate (2010-2017)
2010
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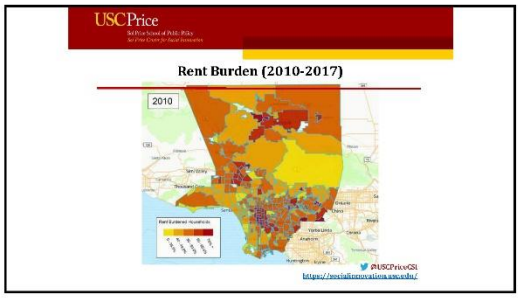
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Rent Burden (2010-2017)
2010
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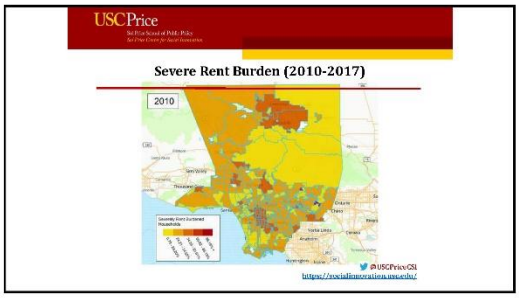
USC Price
Severe Rent Burden (2010-2017)
2010
@USCPriceCSI
https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/

USC Price

Why Affordability Matters? (Gabriel and Painter 2018)

Literature points to various household adjustments due to affordability constraints, including:

- **doubling up/overcrowding** (Diaz McConnell, 2016; Hernández, et al., 2016)
- **reduced spending on other goods** (Food, Education, Health, Energy) (Kirkpatrick & Tarasuk, 2007; Kirkpatrick & Tarasuk, 2011; Newman & Holupka, 2016)
- **longer commutes** (Saltana, 2002)
- **lower housing and neighborhood quality** (Kirkpatrick & Tarasuk, 2007; Kirkpatrick & Tarasuk, 2011)

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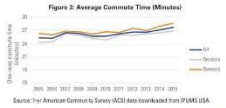
USC Price

LABC Report (2018)

- With rising housing and living costs, the issue is especially dire in Los Angeles, where one-third of all workers make less than $30,000 and the high cost of housing has made it difficult for businesses to recruit and retain workers.

Figure 3: Average Commute Time (Minutes)



Source: 1-yr American Community Survey (ACS) data downloaded from IPUMS USA.

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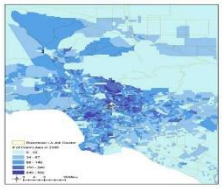
https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/

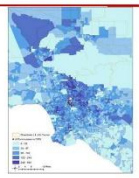
USC Price

Commuting to Downtown LA (2005)



USC Price

Commuting to Downtown LA (2015)



USC Price

Why Affordability Matters?

- Consequences of affordability constraints for households include:
  - **Lower educational attainment for children** (Lopoo & London, 2016; Mueller, & Tighe, 2007; Harkness & Newman, 2005)
  - **Declines in mental health, reduced health care spending leading to prescription non-adherence** (Mason, et al., 2013; Pollack, Griffin, & Lynch 2010)
  - **Lower housing and neighborhood quality** reduces a child's long term labor market outcomes (Chetty et al, 2015)

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https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/

USC Price

Why Affordability Matters?

- Consequences of affordability constraints for metro regions include:
  - **greater separation between jobs and housing leading to longer commutes and congestion** (Cervero, 1989; Cervero, 1996; Saltana, 2002)
  - **greater income equality in a metropolitan region is associated with stronger economic growth and lesser impact from recessions** (Turner, 2009; Abiad, et al., 2015; Benner & Pastor, 2015)

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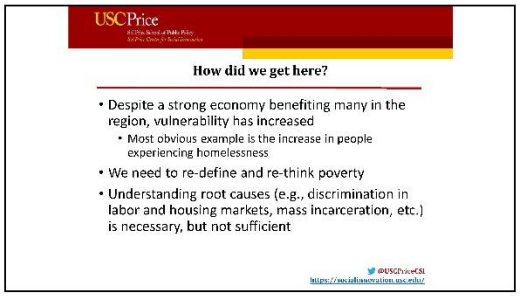
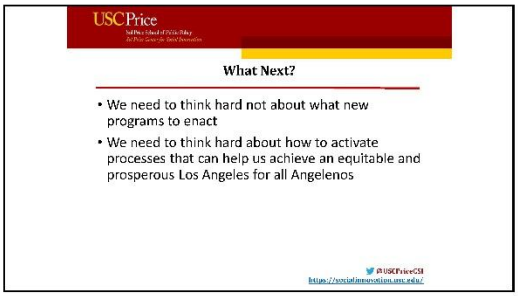

USC Price
How did we get here?
• Despite a strong economy benefiting many in the region, vulnerability has increased
• Most obvious example is the increase in people experiencing homelessness
• We need to re-define and re-think poverty
• Understanding root causes (e.g., discrimination in labor and housing markets, mass incarceration, etc.) is necessary, but not sufficient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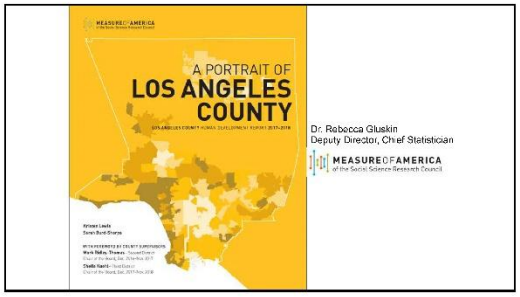
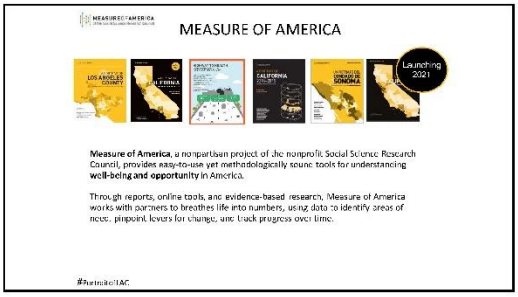
What Next?
• We need to think hard not about what new programs to enact
• We need to think hard about how to activate processes that can help us achieve an equitable and prosperous Los Angeles for all Angelenos

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
Defining Innovative & Equitable Strategies
MITCH O'FARRELL
Eric Garcetti
citi
eliminating racism empowering women
ywca
greater los angeles
Community Action Board
CCFS
EWDD
hcidla.lacity.org
#hcidla
#lapovertysummit

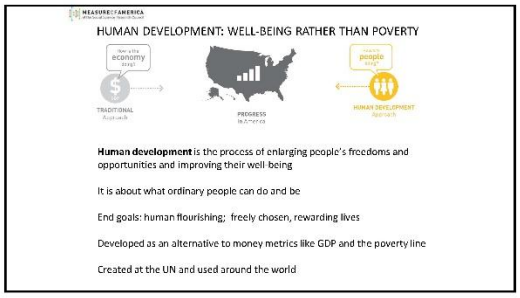
The Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department
in partnership with
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
present
Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
Defining Innovative & Equitable Strategies
#LApovertysummit
Eric Garcetti
MITCH O'FARRELL

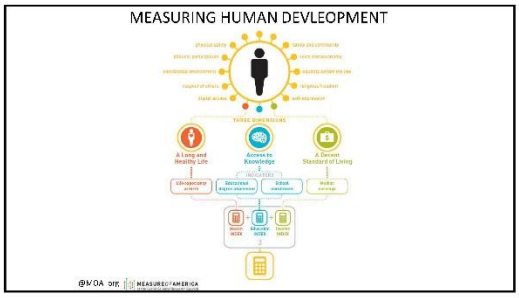

A PORTRAIT OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Dr. Rebecca Gluskin
Deputy Director, Chief Statistician
MEASURE OF AMERICA


MEASURE OF AMERICA
Launching 2021
Measure of America, a nonpartisan project of the nonprofit Social Science Research Council, provides easy-to-use yet methodologically sound tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in America.
Through reports, online tools, and evidence-based research, Measure of America works with partners to breathe life into numbers, using data to identify areas of need, pinpoint levers for change, and track progress over time.

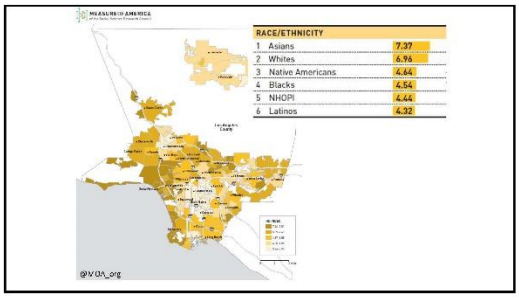
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GRANTMAKERS
CONSORTIUM OF FUNDERS:
BCM Foundation
blue of california foundation
THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT
citi
THE RALPH M. PARSONS FOUNDATION
United Way

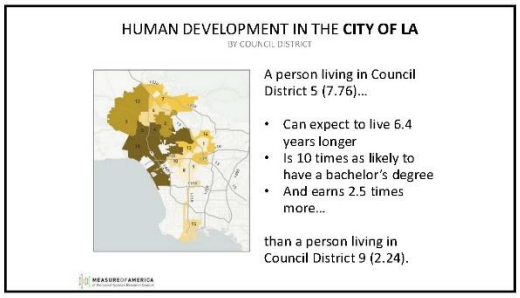
POVERTY IS MORE THAN A LACK OF MONEY
Lacking what you need to sustain a dignified life and fully participate in society
• Material deprivation
• Insecurity and instability
• Lack of voice, political power, and independence
• Social, economic and physical exclusion
• Not being treated with dignity and respect; vulnerable to rudeness, humiliation, violence
• Having to rely on poorer quality public services
• Adaptive preferences – limiting ambitions and desires to what feels possible

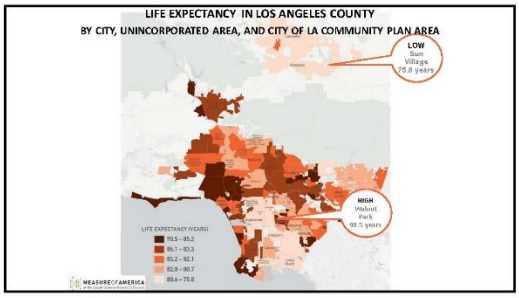

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: WELL-BEING RATHER THAN POVERTY
economy
people
TRADITIONAL
PROGRESS
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
Human development is the process of enlarging people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being
It is about what ordinary people can do and be
End goals: human flourishing; freely chosen, rewarding lives
Developed as an alternative to money metrics like GDP and the poverty line
Created at the UN and used around the world

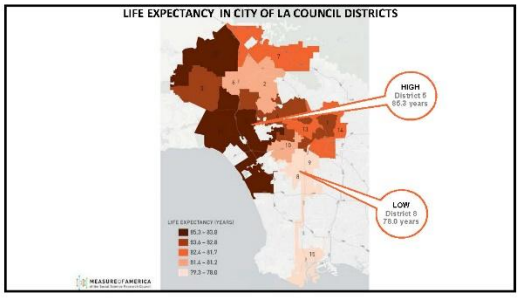

MEASURING HUMAN DEVLEOPMENT
A Long and Healthy Life
Access to Knowledge
A Decent Standard of Living
@MOA_org

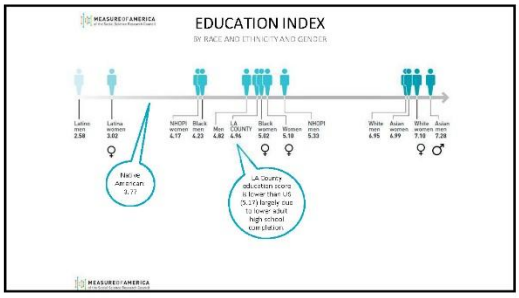
SAME EARNINGS, DIFFERENT LEVELS OF WELL-BEING:
WALNUT PARK AND CUDAHY
A TALE OF TWO COMMUNITIES
Walnut Park
19% living in poverty
13.5% of families headed by a single parent
4/1,000 teen births
13% youth unemployment rate
51.7% owner-occupied housing
Cudahy
31% living in poverty
23.8% of families headed by a single parent
26/1,000 teen births
28% youth unemployment rate
16.2% owner-occupied housing

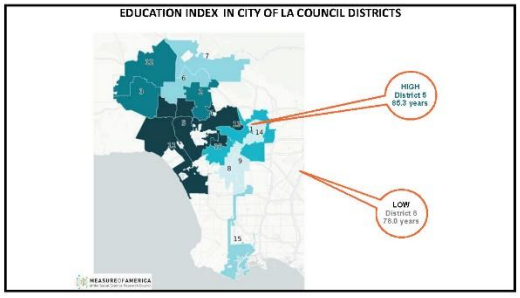

RACE/ETHNICITY
1 Asians 7.37
2 Whites 6.96
3 Native Americans 4.64
4 Blacks 4.54
5 NHOPI 4.44
6 Latinos 4.32
@MOA_org

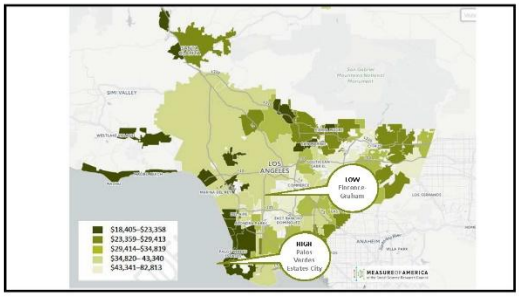

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE **CITY OF LA**
BY COUNCIL DISTRICT
A person living in Council District 5 (7.76)...
• Can expect to live 6.4 years longer
• Is 10 times as likely to have a bachelor's degree
• And earns 2.5 times more...
than a person living in Council District 9 (2.24).

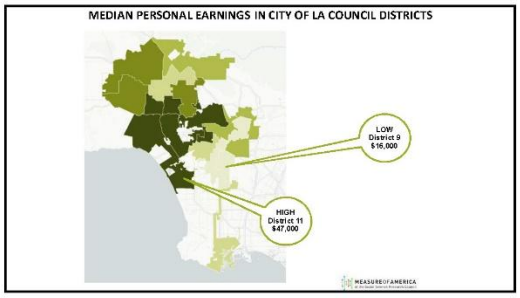

LIFE EXPECTANCY IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BY CITY, UNINCORPORATED AREA, AND CITY OF LA COMMUNITY PLAN AREA
LOW
Sun Village
75.8 years
HIGH
Walnut Park
88.5 years

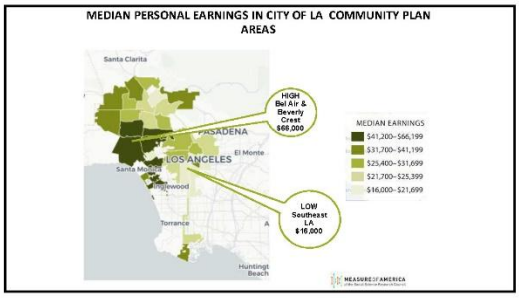

LIFE EXPECTANCY IN CITY OF LA COUNCIL DISTRICTS
HIGH
District 5
85.3 years
LOW
District 8
78.6 years


EDUCATION INDEX
BY RACE AND ETHNICITY AND GENDER
Native American
2.77
LA County education score is lower than US (5.27) largely due to lower adult high school completion


EDUCATION INDEX IN CITY OF LA COUNCIL DISTRICTS
HIGH
District 5
85.3 years
LOW
District 8
78.6 years


LOW
Florence-Graham
HIGH
Palos Verdes Estates City
$18,405–$23,358
$23,359–$29,413
$29,414–$34,819
$34,820–$43,340
$43,341–82,813


MEDIAN PERSONAL EARNINGS IN CITY OF LA COUNCIL DISTRICTS
LOW
District 9
$16,000
HIGH
District 11
$47,000
MEASUREOFAMERICA


MEDIAN PERSONAL EARNINGS IN CITY OF LA COMMUNITY PLAN AREAS
Santa Clarita
HIGH
Bel Air &
Beverly
Crest
$68,000
PASADENA
El Monte
LOS ANGELES
Santa Monica
Torrance
Huntington
Beach
LOW
Southeast
LA
$16,000
MEDIAN EARNINGS
$41,200–$66,199
$31,700–$41,199
$25,400–$31,699
$21,700–$25,399
$16,000–$21,699
MEASUREOFAMERICA

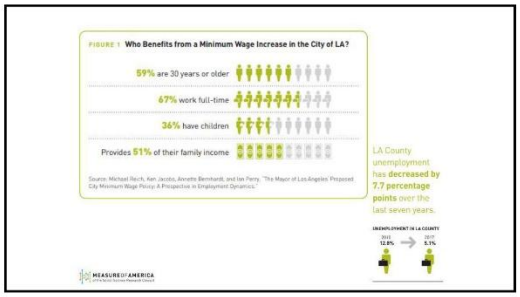
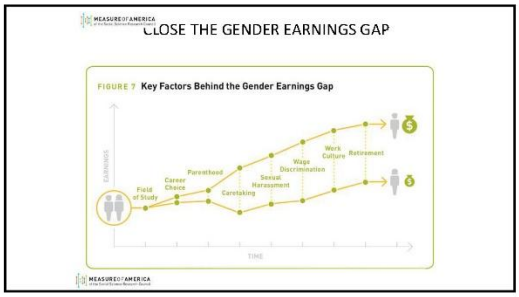
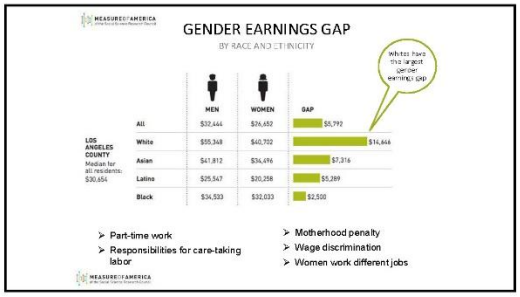
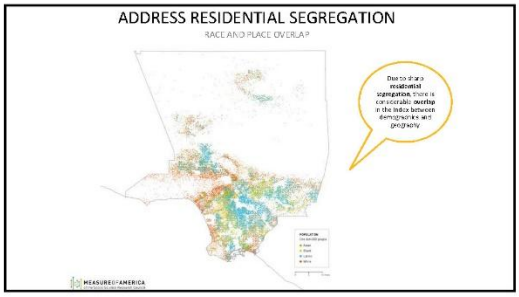


FIGURE 1 Who Benefits from a Minimum Wage Increase in the City of LA?
59% are 30 years or older
67% work full-time
36% have children
Provides 51% of their family income
LA County unemployment has decreased by 7.7 percentage points over the last seven years.
MEASUREOFAMERICA


MEASUREOFAMERICA
CLOSE THE GENDER EARNINGS GAP
FIGURE 7 Key Factors Behind the Gender Earnings Gap
EARNINGS
Field of Study
Career Choice
Parenthood
Caretaking
Sexual Harassment
Wage Discrimination
Work Culture
Retirement
TIME
MEASUREOFAMERICA


MEASUREOFAMERICA
GENDER EARNINGS GAP
BY RACE AND ETHNICITY
Whites have the largest gender earnings gap
MEN
WOMEN
GAP
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Median for all residents: $30,654
All $32,444 $26,652 $5,792
White $55,348 $40,702 $14,646
Asian $41,812 $34,496 $7,316
Latino $25,547 $20,258 $5,289
Black $34,533 $32,033 $2,500
Part-time work
Responsibilities for care-taking labor
Motherhood penalty
Wage discrimination
Women work different jobs
MEASUREOFAMERICA


ADDRESS RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION
RACE AND PLACE OVERLAP
Due to these residential segregation, there is considerable overlap in the index between demographics and geography.
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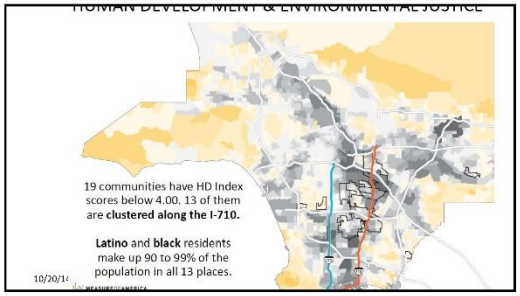

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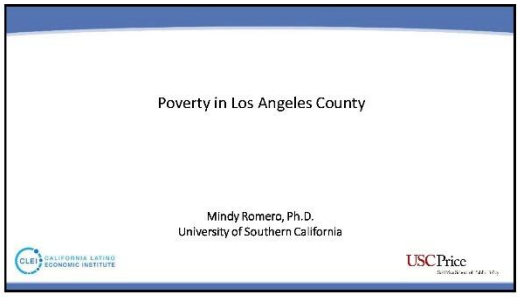

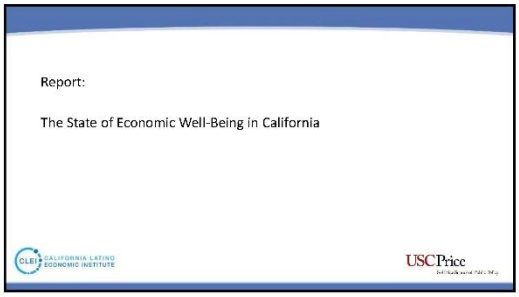

To better understand the likelihood of poverty we should examine the disparities in poverty rates and related factors

At a regional level

USC Price

Regional Disparities in Household Income

- In the Los Angeles region, Latino have a median household income of $55,778, the third highest among all regions
- Income disparity between Latinos and Asian Americans in the Los Angeles Region is the third highest of any CA region
- In the Los Angeles Region, Asian Americans have a median household income that is $27,670 greater than that of Latinos.

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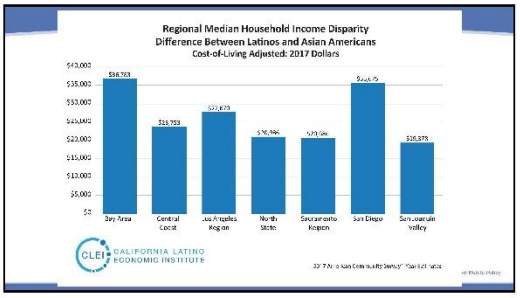

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Regional Disparities in Poverty Rates

- Across all California's regions, Latinos experience high poverty rates
- In the Los Angeles region, 20.4% of Latino live in poverty
- The Los Angeles region has the second highest disparity of 10.8 percentage points difference in poverty rates between Latinos and non-Latino Whites – the group with the lowest poverty rate in each region

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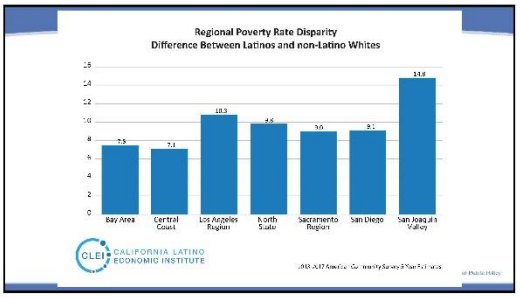

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How Does the Cost of Housing in California Impact Latinos?

- Adequate and affordable housing is a critical component in achieving stability and security, but is increasingly difficult for many Californians to obtain
- As housing costs rise relative to income, many Latinos are simply less able to find adequate housing in the state

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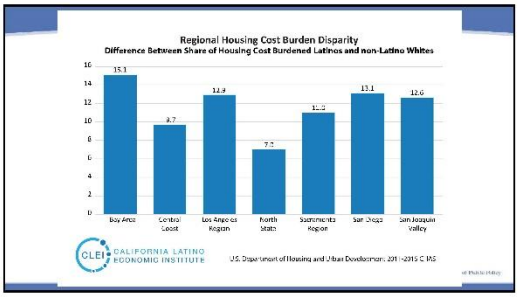
Housing Cost Burden

- Renters experience a significant housing cost burden
- Across all racial and ethnic groups, a greater share of renters experience a housing cost burden than homeowners
- California Latinos are particularly affected as the majority of them are renters

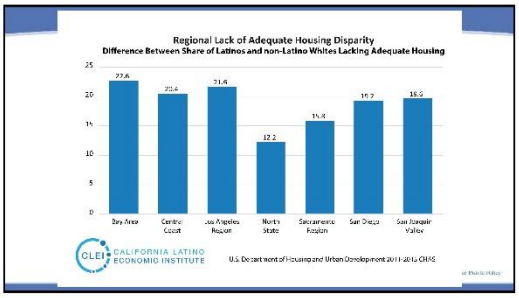
Regional Disparities in Housing Cost Burden

- In the Los Angeles region, 51.8% of Latino households are cost burden, the highest (alongside San Diego) among all regions.
- The housing cost burden disparity between Latinos and non-Latino Whites in the Los Angeles Region is the third highest of any region
- Los Angeles region has a difference of 12.9 percentage points



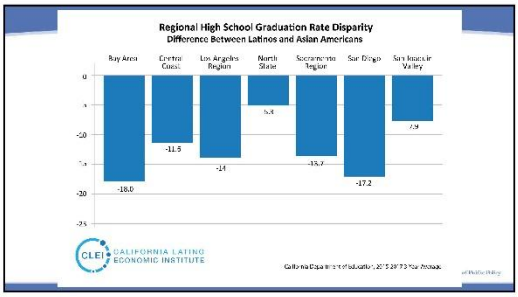
Regional Disparities in Adequate Housing

- In the Los Angeles region, 62.1% of Latino households have inadequate housing, the highest among all regions
- the percent of Latinos without adequate housing is 21.6 percentage points higher than the percent of non-Latino Whites without adequate housing
- The second highest disparity of CA regions



Regional Disparities in High School Graduation Rates

- In the Los Angeles region, the Latino graduation rate is 79.7% - the third highest among all regions
- Significant disparities in high school graduation rates by race or ethnicity are present in every region in California with the largest difference between Latinos and Asian Americans
- The Los Angeles Region has a disparity in high school graduation rates between these two groups at 14 percentage points


Regional High School Graduation Rate Disparity
Difference Between Latinos and Asian Americans
Bay Area
Central Coast
Los Angeles Region
North State
Sacramento Region
San Diego
San Joaquin Valley
-18.0
-11.5
-14
-17.2
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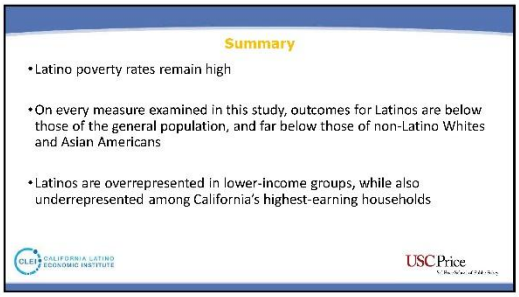
Summary
• Latino poverty rates remain high
• On every measure examined in this study, outcomes for Latinos are below those of the general population, and far below those of non-Latino Whites and Asian Americans
• Latinos are overrepresented in lower-income groups, while also underrepresented among California's highest-earning households
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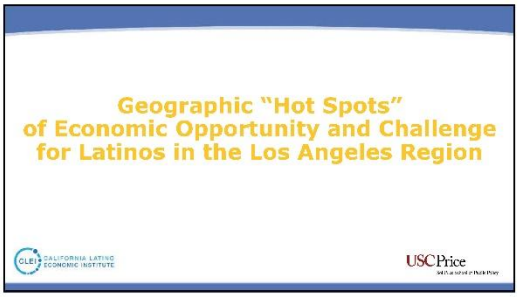
Geographic "Hot Spots" of Economic Opportunity and Challenge for Latinos in the Los Angeles Region
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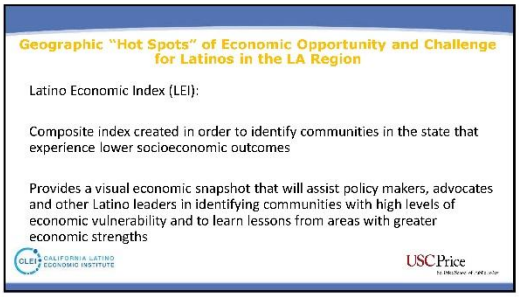
Geographic "Hot Spots" of Economic Opportunity and Challenge for Latinos in the LA Region
Latino Economic Index (LEI):
Composite index created in order to identify communities in the state that experience lower socioeconomic outcomes
Provides a visual economic snapshot that will assist policy makers, advocates and other Latino leaders in identifying communities with high levels of economic vulnerability and to learn lessons from areas with greater economic strengths
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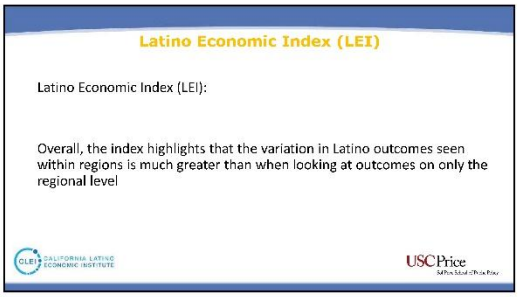
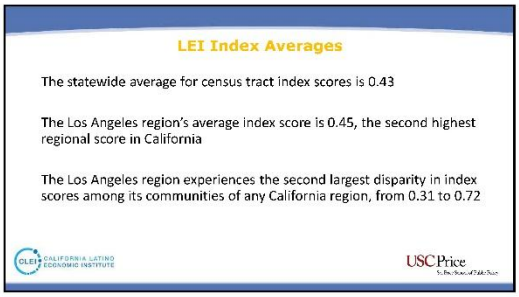

Latino Economic Index (LEI)
Latino Economic Index (LEI):
Overall, the index highlights that the variation in Latino outcomes seen within regions is much greater than when looking at outcomes on only the regional level
CLEI CALIFORNIA LATINO ECONOMIC INSTITUTE
USC Price


LEI Index Averages
The statewide average for census tract index scores is 0.43
The Los Angeles region's average index score is 0.45, the second highest regional score in California
The Los Angeles region experiences the second largest disparity in index scores among its communities of any California region, from 0.31 to 0.72
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USC Price

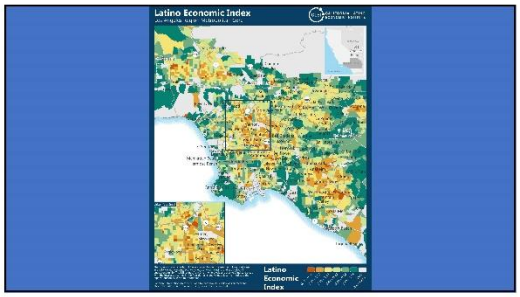

Table 5. Latino Economic Index (LEI): Los Angeles

Latino Economic Index (LEI): Los Angeles Region 10 Lowest Scoring Communities		Latino Economic Index (LEI): Los Angeles Region 10 Highest Scoring Communities	
Communities	Average of Index Score	Communities	Average of Index Score
Oasis	0.31	Calabasas	0.72
Pilion Hills	0.33	Rolling Hills	0.71
March ARB	0.33	Rolling Hills Estates	0.68
Big Bear Lake	0.34	Topanga	0.66
Lynwood	0.34	La Cañada Flintridge	0.65
Cudahy	0.34	Leona Valley	0.65
Oxnard	0.35	San Marino	0.64
Homestead Valley	0.35	Seal Beach	0.63
Desert Edge	0.35	Manhattan Beach	0.63
Bell Gardens	0.35	La Habra Heights	0.62

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Latino Economic Index: LOS ANGELES REGION

- Looking at only the Los Angeles metropolitan core, we see some of the greatest disparity in index scores for the Los Angeles region within short geographic distances.
- In this core, Latinos in the perimeter generally experience higher outcomes than Latinos in the urban centers.

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Take-a-Ways

- Face significant structural challenges in housing, educational attainment and employment efforts that, together, serve as barriers to higher income and overall economic stability
- Needs carefully allocated resources and investments designed to build economic well-being, including the Latino community
- California's future depends on it

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Thank you!

Mindy Romero, Ph.D.
Director, California Civic Engagement Project
USC Price School of Public Policy
msromero@usc.edu
@mindysromero

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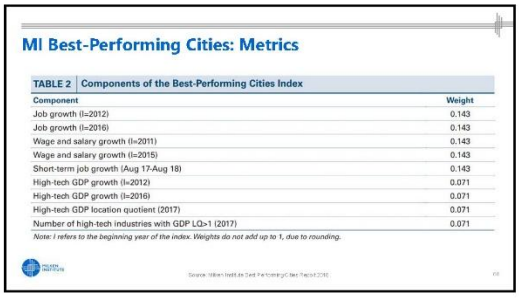


MI Best-Performing Cities: Metrics

TABLE 2 | Components of the Best-Performing Cities Index

Component	Weight
Job growth (l=2012)	0.143
Job growth (l=2016)	0.143
Wage and salary growth (l=2011)	0.143
Wage and salary growth (l=2015)	0.143
Short-term job growth (Aug 17-Aug 18)	0.143
High-tech GDP growth (l=2012)	0.071
High-tech GDP growth (l=2016)	0.071
High-tech GDP location quotient (2017)	0.071
Number of high-tech industries with GDP LQ>1 (2017)	0.071

Note: l refers to the beginning year of the index. Weights do not add up to 1, due to rounding.

Top 10 Ranked California Metros According to 2018 Best-Performing Cities Index

Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	2018 rank	2017 rank	Rank change
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	2	11	+9
San Francisco-Redwood City-S. San Francisco, CA	4	4	0
Oakland-Hayward-Berkeley, CA	14	16	+2
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	15	20	+5
Santa Rosa, CA	18	43	+25
San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles-Arroyo Grande, CA	31	34	+3
Stockton-Lodi, CA	34	68	+34
Santa Cruz-Watsonville, CA	36	31	-5
Fresno, CA	37	66	+29
Merced, CA	38	94	+56

Continued: California Metros According to 2018 Best-Performing Cities Index

Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	2018 rank	2017 rank	Rank change
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	45	51	+6
Vallejo-Fairfield, CA	49	64	+15
Modesto, CA	53	33	-20
Visalia-Porterville, CA	54	54	0
Anaheim-Santa Ana-Irvine, CA	56	47	-9

Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	2018 rank	2017 rank	Rank change
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA	81	61	-20

Winning Case Study: Provo-Orem, UT

Best-Performing Large Cities: #1

JOB GROWTH (2012-17)	1ST
JOB GROWTH (2016-17)	3RD
WAGE GROWTH (2011-16)	3RD
WAGE GROWTH (2015-16)	2ND
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (8/2017-8/2018)	5TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2012-17)	3RD
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2016-17)	80TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2017)	13TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1) (2017)	22ND

Highest Ranked CA MSA: San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA

Best-Performing Large Cities: #2

JOB GROWTH (2012-17)	16TH
JOB GROWTH (2016-17)	30TH
WAGE GROWTH (2011-16)	2ND
WAGE GROWTH (2015-16)	6TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (8/2017-8/2018)	11TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2012-17)	4TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2016-17)	14TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2017)	1ST
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1) (2017)	2ND

Highest Ranked Regional MSA: Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA

Best-Performing Large Cities: #15

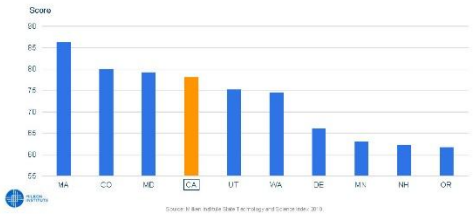
JOB GROWTH (2012-17)	3RD
JOB GROWTH (2016-17)	7TH
WAGE GROWTH (2011-16)	19TH
WAGE GROWTH (2015-16)	48TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (8/2017-8/2018)	18TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2012-17)	95TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2016-17)	28TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2017)	131ST
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1) (2017)	112TH

Snapshot: City of Los Angeles

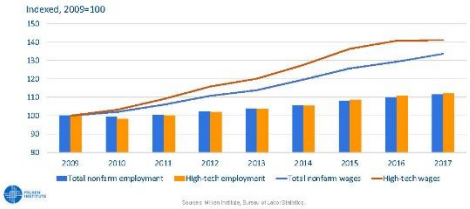
Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	2018 rank	2017 rank	2016 rank
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA	81	61	48

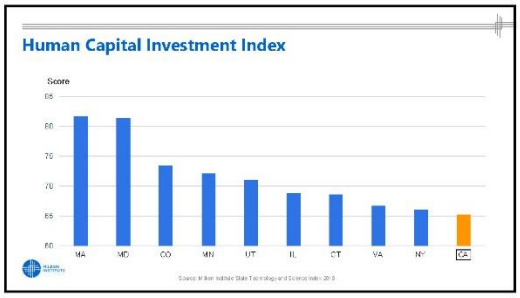
2018 Rank		2017 Rank	
Job Growth (2012-17)	88th	Job Growth (2011-16)	74th
Job Growth (2016-17)	115th	Job Growth (2015-16)	83rd
Wage Growth (2011-16)	72nd	Wage Growth (2010-15)	71st
Wage Growth (2015-16)	72nd	Wage Growth (2014-15)	73rd
Short-Term Job Growth (8/2017-8/2018)	113th	Short-Term Job Growth (8/2016-8/2017)	144th
High-Tech GDP Growth (2012-17)	108th	High-Tech GDP Growth (2011-16)	81st
High-Tech GDP Growth (2016-17)	164th	High-Tech GDP Growth (2015-16)	44th
High-Tech GDP Concentration (2017)	20th	High-Tech GDP Concentration (2016)	17th
Number of Industries with LQ>1 (2017)	8th	Number of Industries with LQ>1 (2016)	8th

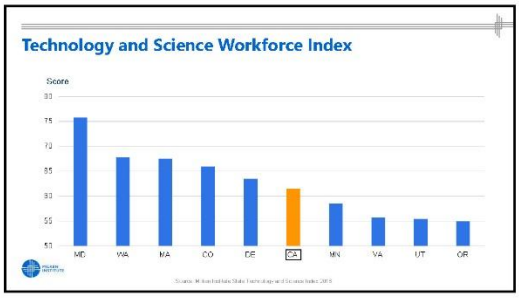
State Technology and Science Index

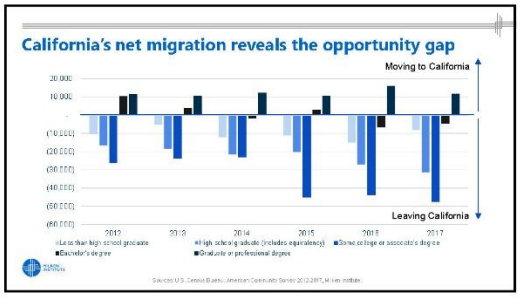


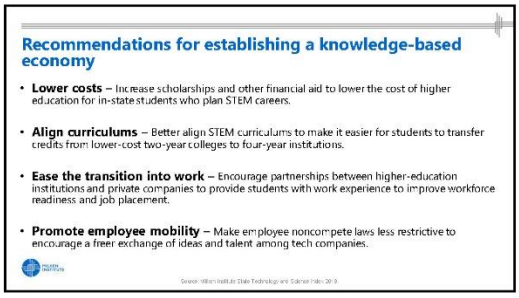
High-tech industries coming out of the recession – creating high quality jobs

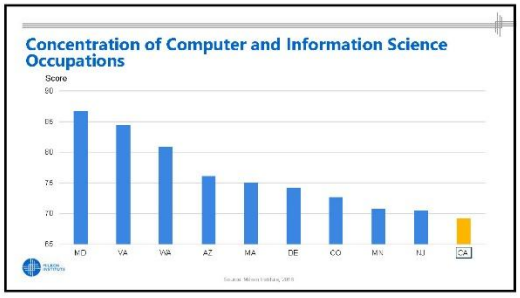


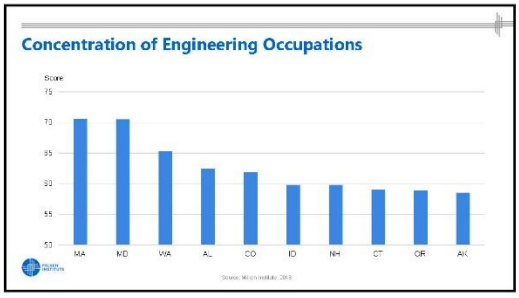

Human Capital Investment Index
Score
MA
MD
CO
MN
UT
IL
CT
VA
NY
CA

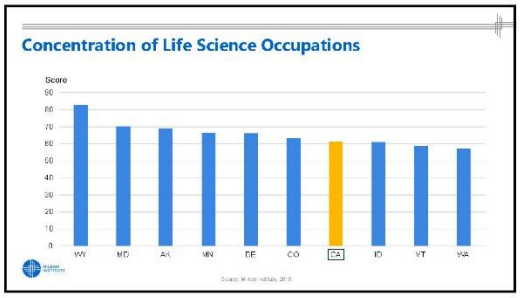

Technology and Science Workforce Index
Score
MD
WA
MA
CO
DE
CA
MN
VA
UT
OR


California's net migration reveals the opportunity gap
Moving to California
Leaving California
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
Less than high school graduate
High school graduate (includes equivalency)
Some college or associate's degree
Bachelor's degree
Graduate or professional degree


Recommendations for establishing a knowledge-based economy
• Lower costs – Increase scholarships and other financial aid to lower the cost of higher education for in-state students who plan STEM careers.
• Align curriculums – Better align STEM curriculums to make it easier for students to transfer credits from lower-cost two-year colleges to four-year institutions.
• Ease the transition into work – Encourage partnerships between higher-education institutions and private companies to provide students with work experience to improve workforce readiness and job placement.
• Promote employee mobility – Make employee noncompete laws less restrictive to encourage a freer exchange of ideas and talent among tech companies.


Concentration of Computer and Information Science Occupations
Score
MD
VA
WA
AZ
MA
DE
CO
MN
NJ
CA


Concentration of Engineering Occupations
Score
MA
MD
WA
AL
CO
ID
NH
CT
OR
AK


Concentration of Life Science Occupations
Score
WY
MD
AK
MN
DE
CO
CA
ID
VT
WA

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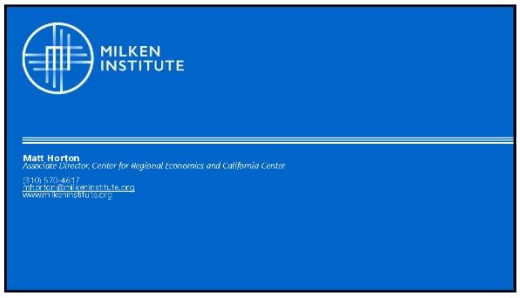
Thank You


MILKEN INSTITUTE
Matt Horton
Associate Director, Center for Regional Economics and California Center
(310) 570-4617

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
Defining Innovative & Equitable Strategies
MITCH O'FARRELL
Eric Garcetti
citi
eliminating racism empowering women
ywca
greater los angeles
Community Action Board
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EWDD
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#hcidla
#lapovertysummit

The Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department
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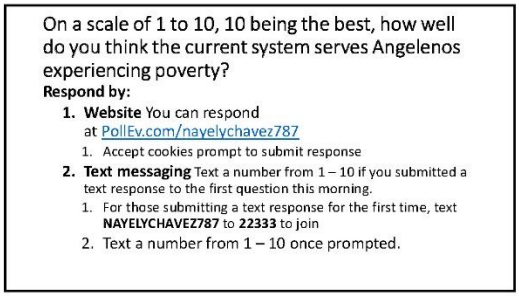
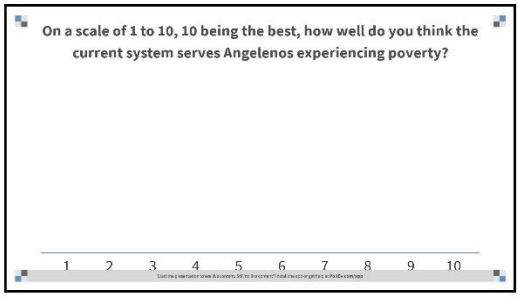
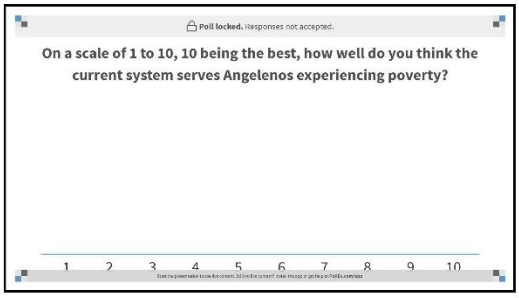

On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the best, how well do you think the current system serves Angelenos experiencing poverty?
Respond by:
1. Website You can respond at PollEv.com/nayelychavez787
1. Accept cookies prompt to submit response
2. Text messaging Text a number from 1 – 10 if you submitted a text response to the first question this morning.
1. For those submitting a text response for the first time, text NAYELYCHAVEZ787 to 22333 to join
2. Text a number from 1 – 10 once prompted.


On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the best, how well do you think the current system serves Angelenos experiencing poverty?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10


Poll locked. Responses not accepted.
On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the best, how well do you think the current system serves Angelenos experiencing poverty?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

The Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department
in partnership with
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
present
Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
Defining Innovative & Equitable Strategies
#LApovertysummit
Eric Garcetti
MITCH O'FARRELL

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Defining Innovative & Equitable Strategies
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Eric Garcetti
MITCH O'FARRELL

Appendix C: Summit Agenda

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: Innovative Strategies to Lift Up Angelenos
September 20, 2019
Agenda

Breakfast & Registration **8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.**

Welcome **8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

Rushmore Cervantes, General Manager
Housing + Community Investment Dept. of Los Angeles

Mitch O'Farrell, Councilmember CD13

Opening Remarks **9:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.**

Honorable Mayor Eric Garcetti

Remarks **9:10 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.**

Councilmember Monica Rodriquez, 7th District
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, 8th District

Painting the Picture of Poverty: Untold Stories **9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**
Angelica Frias, Community Action Board (CAB), Vice-Chair
In this first panel, panelists shared their lived experience with poverty and navigating the resources available to them. They also engaged in conversation around resource gaps and barriers and shared recommendations for what the City can do in collaboration with the other stakeholders.
Moderator: **Benjamin Torres**, Commission on Community & Family Services

Jazzmun Crayton, Transgender Activist & Actress
Jazzmyn Clark
Adriana Aguilar
Brenda Rojas

Poverty in Los Angeles: Current Trends & Research Data **10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.**
Dr. Gary Painter, Director USC Sol Price Center for Social Innovation
Director, Homelessness Policy Research Institute – Moderator

This panel discussion aimed to provide an overview of data and research that is reflective of the Los Angeles region (both county and city). Panelists applied different indexes to explore the health and strength of cities and offered a close look at specific sub-groups and trends as well as future indicators for those who are most impacted by the cycle of poverty.
Rebecca Tave Gluskin, Measure of America
Mindy Romero, USC Price School of Public Policy
Matt Horton, Milken Institute Center for Regional Economics

Remarks **11:15 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.**

Herb J. Wesson, Council President

Morning Break **11:20 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Break-out Session 1: Re-defining Poverty **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

This session aimed to explore current definitions of poverty lines and identify if they capture current poverty challenges and system barriers. Using empathy mapping techniques, each table was assigned a story from the morning panel and engaged in a facilitated discussion.

Lunch **12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Keynote Address **1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Introduction by Abigail Marquez, Assistant General Manager
Housing + Community Investment Dept. of Los Angeles
Father Greg Boyle, Founder
Homeboy Industries

Fiona Ma, California State Treasurer **1:30 p.m. - 1:40 a.m.**

Breakout Session 2: Bridging the Gaps **1:40 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
Allison "Allie" Olson, LIFT Los Angeles

This session focused on what is currently being done to prevent poverty in Los Angeles, the impact of those poverty prevention efforts, and poverty prevention gaps. The group discussion highlighted and identified gaps in services and programs, policies, and economic opportunities.
Remarks **2:30 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.**
Councilmember Paul Koretz, 5th District

Afternoon Break **2:35 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.**

Session 3: Envisioning Future Strategies **2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.**

This breakout session aimed to share innovative practices and lessons learned to break down existing silos, foster intersectional solutions, and define next steps and immediate actions around poverty prevention. Building on the content discussed in the earlier sessions, this session gave participants room to discuss an ideal future state and brainstorm strategies to reach that ideal state.

Closing Remarks & Call to Action **3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Rashi Kallur, Vice President
Citi - Community Development

Faye Washington, President & Chief Executive Officer
YWCA of Greater Los Angeles

Call to Action
Mitch O'Farrell, Councilmember CD13

Appendix D: Comprehensive List of Break-Out Session Questions

Breakout Session 1: Re-defining Poverty

This session had two outcomes:

1. Better understand our "client" and how people experience poverty differently.
2. Explore poverty impacts on day-to-day functionality (how they feel, think, struggles and hopes).

Methodology

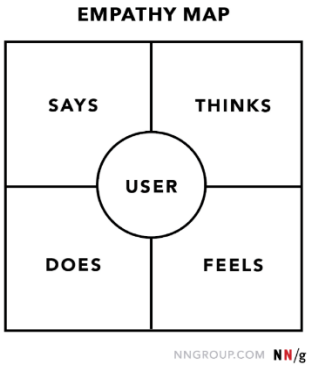
Using empathy mapping techniques, the participants around the table will engage in a facilitated discussion centered on the stories shared during the "*Untold Stories*" morning panel.

Each table will be assigned a story from the morning speakers to use as a key example. Additionally, key data points from the "*Unpacking Data*" session will be projected on the screens as a point of reference to keep the context for the discussions.

Participants' input will be recorded and used as a point of reference for the afternoon sessions to build the conversations around breaking barriers and exploring solutions. One empathy map will be provided per table in order to have integration of the multi-disciplinary attendees.

Empathy Map Activity and Discussion (total discussion time will be ~35 minutes)

Work with group to facilitate filling out of empathy map. Using guiding questions.



Question #1: Empathy Map – Says

1. **Says** quadrant: What are some things the morning speaker said that stood out to you?

Question #2: Empathy Map – Thinks

2. **Thinks** quadrant: What do you think occupies the speaker's thoughts? What matters to them? What non-verbal messages came across in their story—(things they were not willing to vocalize, body language, tone).

Question #3: Empathy Map – Does

3. **Does** quadrant: How does the speaker see and experience poverty? What does their environment look like and what does it tell you about their barriers? What actions do they take, and what is that experience like?

Question #4: Empathy Map – Feels

4. **Feels** quadrant: How did the person feel and what emotions did they convey in their story? What are some of their worries? What are his / her aspirations?

Question #5:

5. How do current poverty measures and definitions include/not include the experiences you just heard about?

Question #6:

6. How might we reframe definitions/measurements of poverty so that they are more reflective of a broader range of experiences?

Breakout Session 2: Bridging the Gaps

This session had one outcome:

1. Identify and map out poverty prevention gaps.

Methodology: Participants will be provided an outline of housing related efforts aimed at prevention of poverty. The outline is not intended to be comprehensive but rather a point of reference to trigger thinking around what else can / needs to be done.

Focusing on the morning speaker they completed their empathy map for, each table will discuss how that individual might navigate, access, and be impacted by current resources and policies (essentially a verbal walk-through of current state).

This facilitated discussion will help the group work through various gap categories to include service & programs, policies, economic opportunities, etc.

Discussion Questions:

Question 1: Using the outline as a reference, how might a person walk through the system of resources available to address poverty?

- What are the barriers to accessing resources?

- What resources does this person need that are not currently offered? Gaps in city service and programs, policies, economic opportunities, etc.
- What about this individual's experience is not accounted for in current policies?

Question 2: How do we need to focus our efforts to serve specific subgroups of Angelenos experiencing poverty?

- Please consider individuals not represented in discussions thus far.

Question 3: Where are the opportunities for greater alignment and synergy across sectors?

- Example of sectors: Government/Policy, Nonprofit/Service Provider, Private Sector/Business, Foundation/Philanthropy, Academia, Financial Institution, Homeless Lived Experience, School District

Breakout Session 3: Envisioning Future Strategies

This session had two outcomes:

1. Outline innovative practices
2. Define next steps & immediate actions

Methodology: Facilitated discussion / brainstorm session, envisioning an ideal future state and brainstorming strategies to reach this. Participants may focus the discussion on the perspective of the individual from their empathy mapping discussion, and will end the discussion with a list of commitments and immediate next steps. Participants should also draw from the findings of *Breakout Session 2: Bridging the Gaps* in addressing their solutions.

Discussion Questions:

Question 1: Dreaming big, while there are still obstacles, what needed actions do you envision in the next year? 5 years?

Question 2: What are some proposed strategies to reach some of these envisioned actions?

- Who are the stakeholders that need to be at the table to help solve the problem? Are any of them here today?

Question 3: What steps can we collectively take to identify immediate actions / solutions?

- What are you committed to do in your own field to contribute to solutions?
- Who do you need in order to make this solution happen?

Question 4: What value are you creating and for whom?

- Who needs your solution the most?
- How will you deliver your solution?
- Are you filling one of the gaps mentioned in the earlier session?

Appendix E: Attendee Survey

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: Innovative Strategies to Lift Up Angelenos

September 20, 2019

Attendee Survey

Thank you for attending. Please take some time between now and the end of the event to fill out this survey. **Before leaving the event, please return this sheet to your table facilitators.**

1. In a few words, describe the one thing you'd most like to change (on a systems level) in the next 12 months in order to address poverty in Los Angeles.

_____
_____
_____

2. After this summit, on a scale of 1-5, how would you rate your awareness/understanding of services being offered to mitigate the effects of poverty?

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Unaware				Strongly Aware

3. How has redefining poverty impacted your understanding of/thinking about poverty?

_____
_____
_____

4. What do you see as the top 2 gaps in services around poverty? Please circle 2.
    a. Funding resources
    b. Alignment of sectors
    c. Location/proximity of resources
    d. Resource allocation
    e. Systemic barriers
    f. Stigma

g. Other: _____

5. What is one policy recommendation you have for the City of LA in their poverty prevention efforts? Please specify how it is a prevention policy.

_____
_____
_____

6. What is one thing you can do today in your organization/affiliation to assist in poverty prevention efforts?

_____
_____
_____

7. On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate the summit? Please circle a number below.

1	2	3	4	5
Very Unsatisfied		Neutral		Very Satisfied

8. On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate the format of the breakout sessions? Please circle a number below.

1	2	3	4	5
Very Unsatisfied		Neutral		Very Satisfied

9. On a scale of 1-5, would you recommend the summit? Please circle a number below.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree		Neutral		Strongly Agree

10. What else would you like us to know?

_____
_____
_____

Special Thanks to:

Commission on Community & Family Services

Benjamin Torres, *President*
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