

# What Would It Take to Dramatically Increase **Mobility from Poverty**?

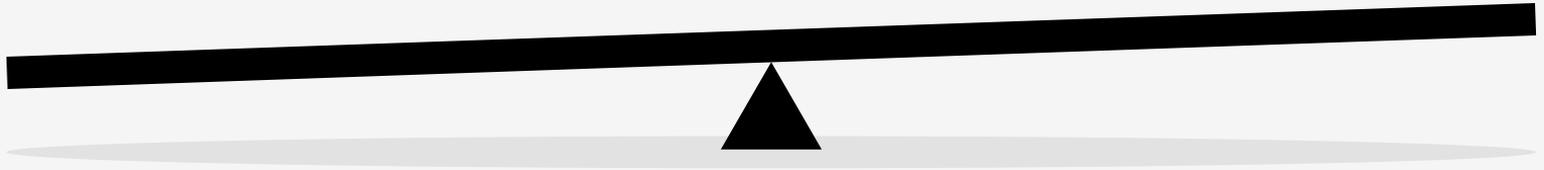
**2018 Grow Our Own Summit**

November 8, 2018

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# American Dream

Work hard,  
get ahead

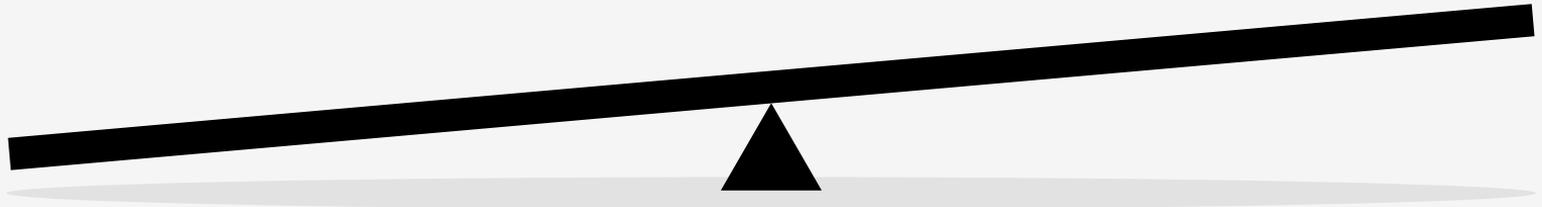


# American Dream

Work hard,  
get ahead

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You do well,  
your children  
do better



American Dream

Today's Reality

Work hard,  
get ahead



You do well,  
your children  
do better

Children less  
likely to do better



## American Dream

Work hard,  
get ahead

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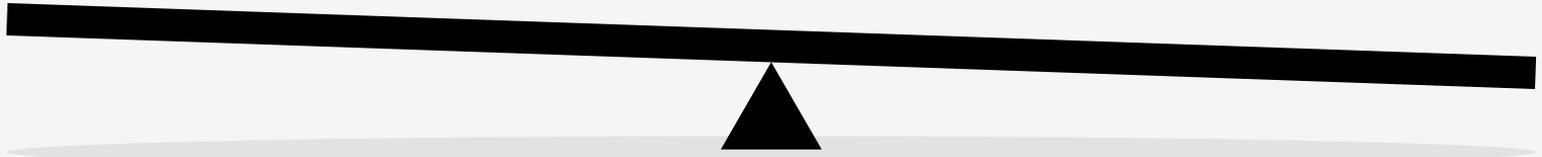
You do well,  
your children  
do better

## Today's Reality

Hard work  
isn't enough

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Children less  
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## American Dream

Work hard,  
get ahead

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You do well,  
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## Today's Reality

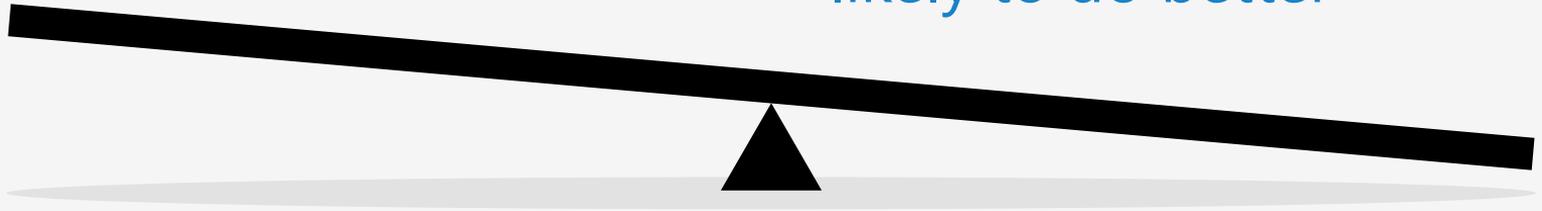
Place matters

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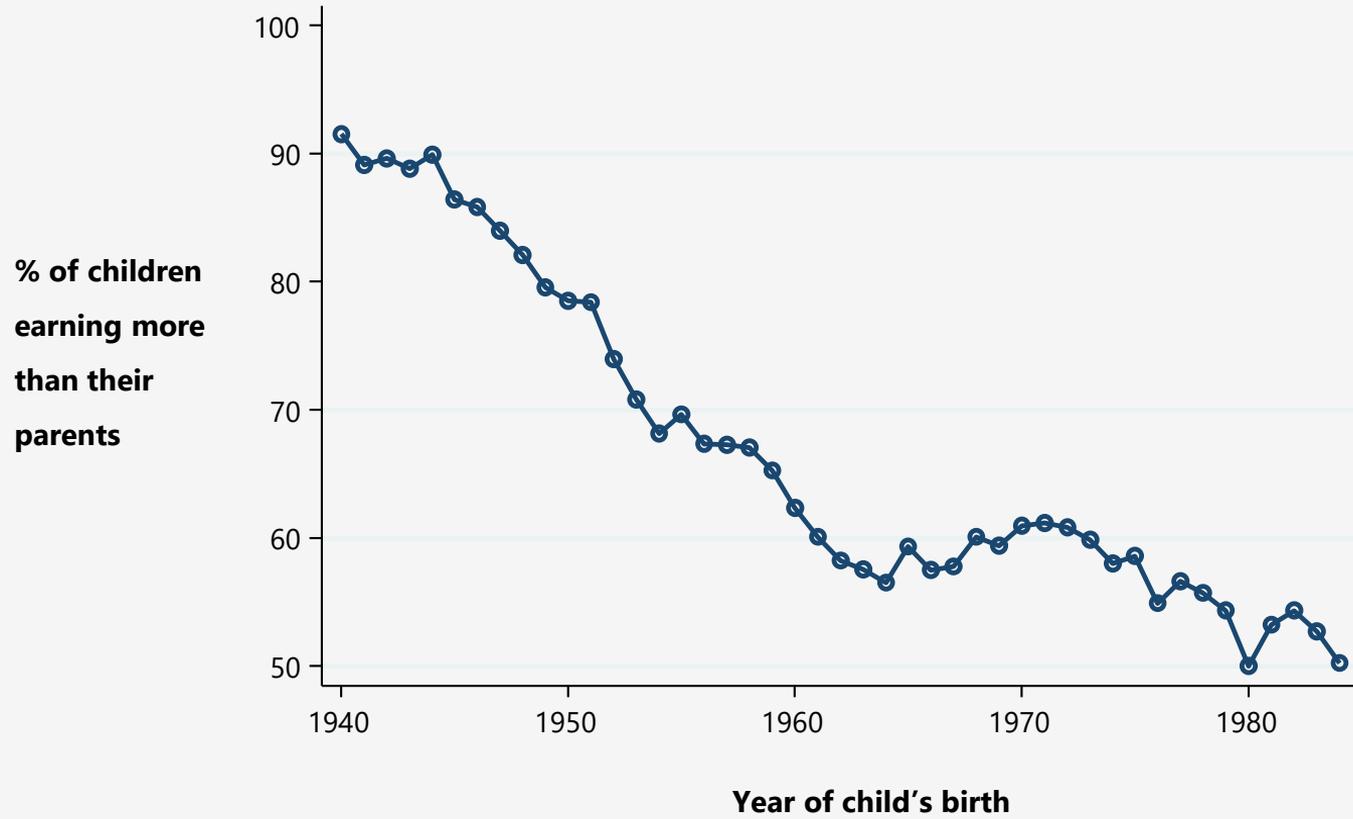
Hard work  
isn't enough

---

Children less  
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**Children **less likely** to do better  
than their parents**



Source: Chetty et al. "The Fading American Dream: Trends in Absolute Income Mobility Since 1940"

**Hard work isn't enough**

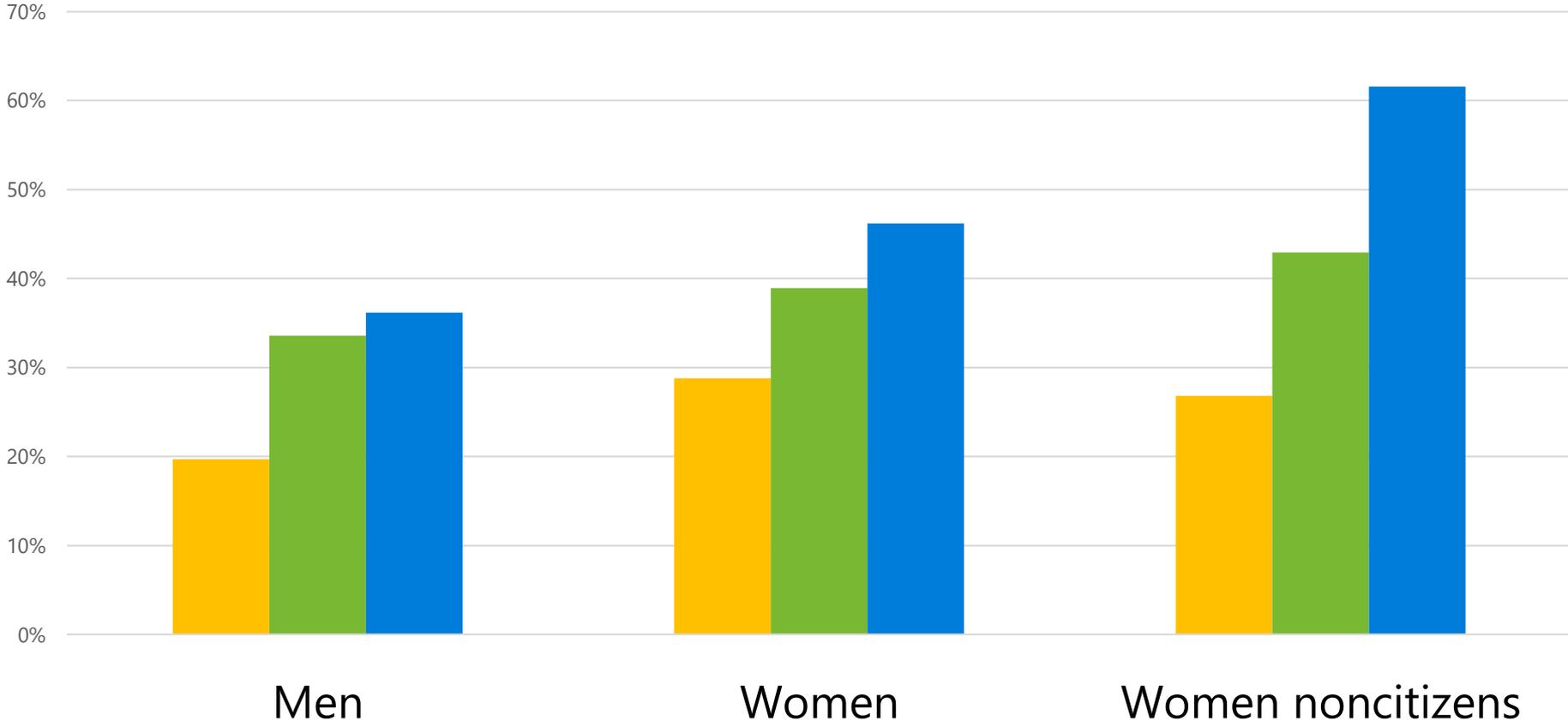
**Nowhere** in the US can a FT minimum wage worker afford a 2-BD apartment



**Disparities by race, gender, &  
immigration status persist**

# Share of workers ages 18-64 who earn low wages

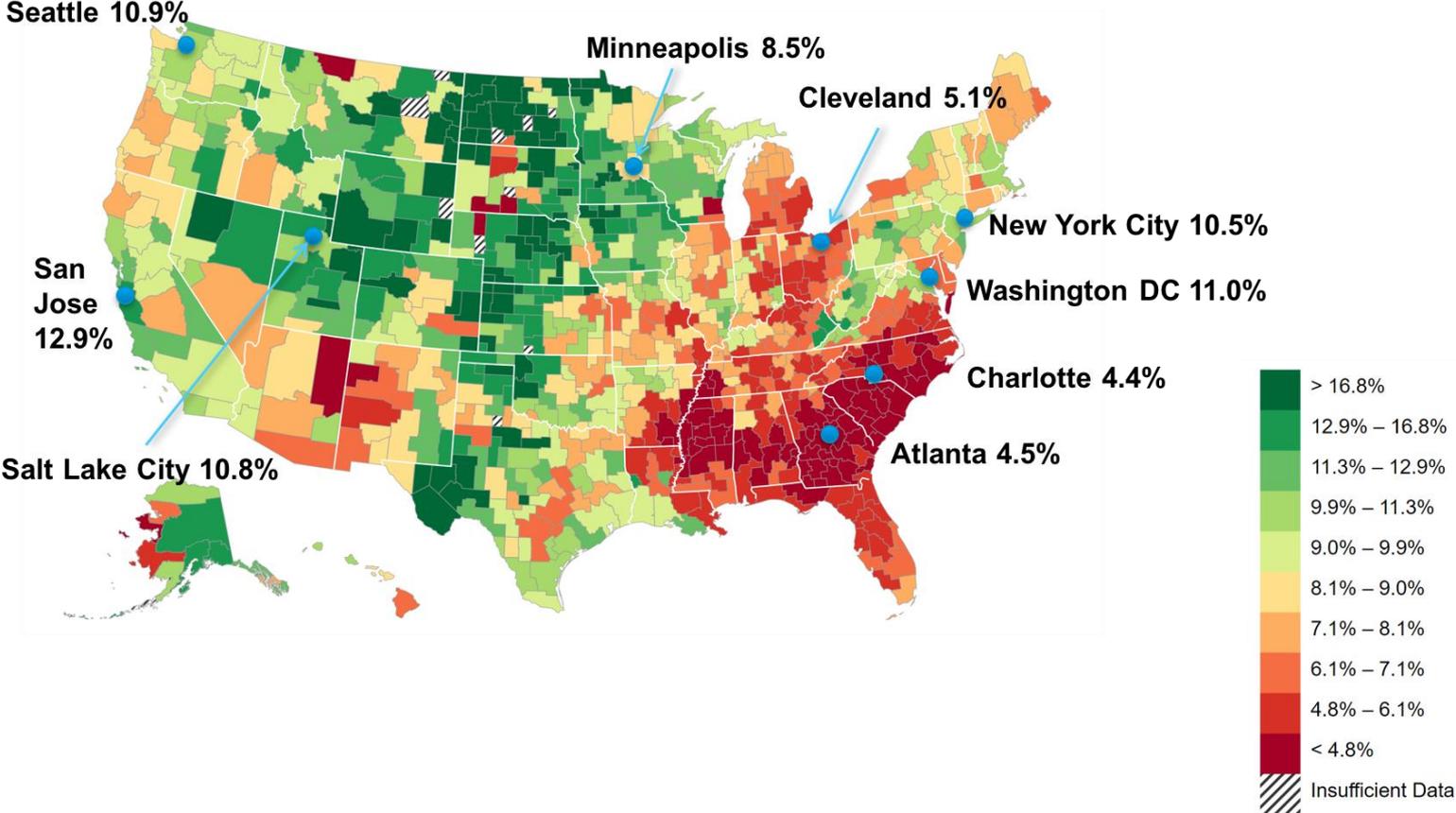
White Black Hispanic



Source: US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty calculations, based on March 2016 CPS-ASEC data.

# Place matters

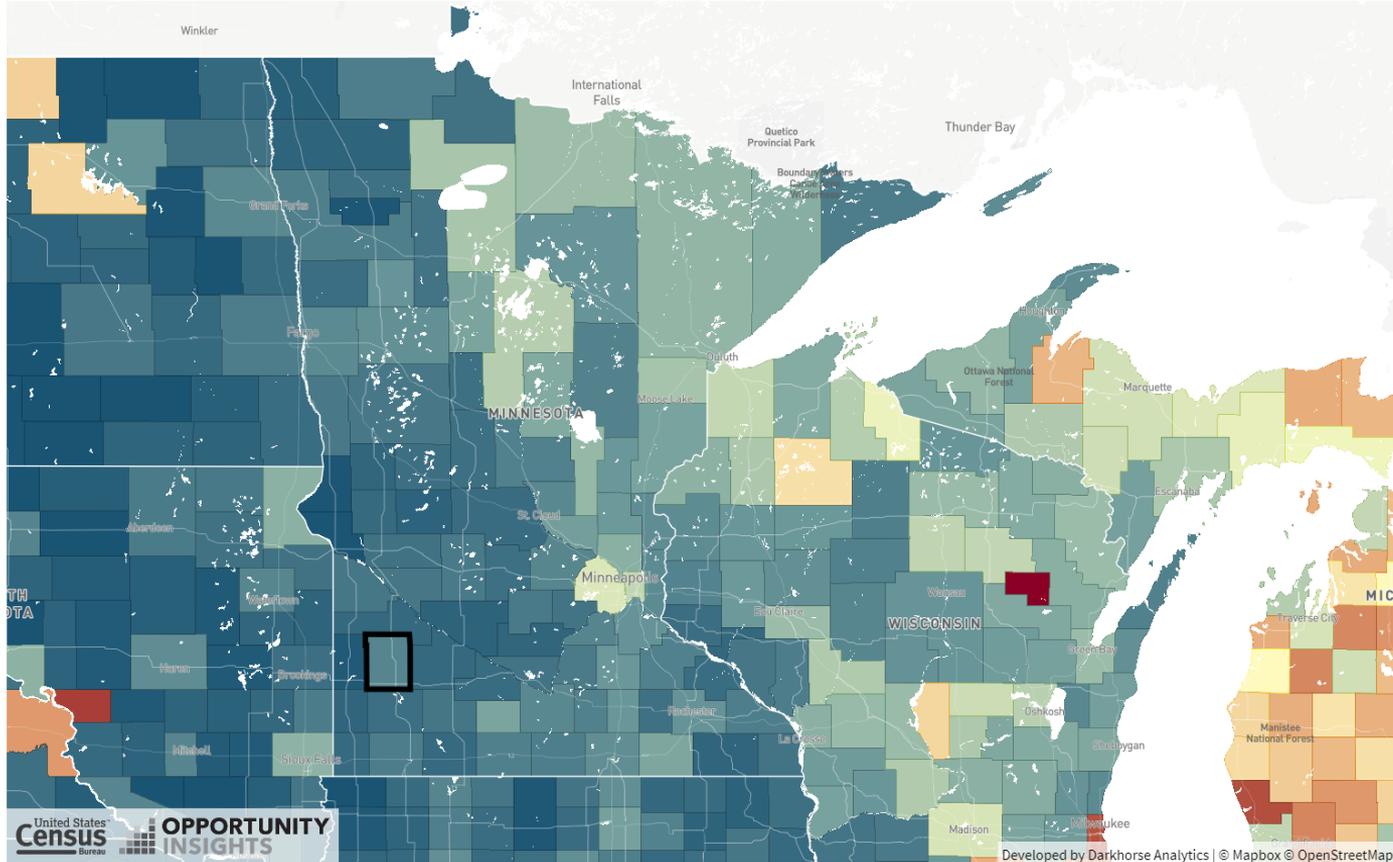
# Chances of moving from bottom 20% as children to top 20% as adults



Source: The Equality of Opportunity Project. Reused with permission.

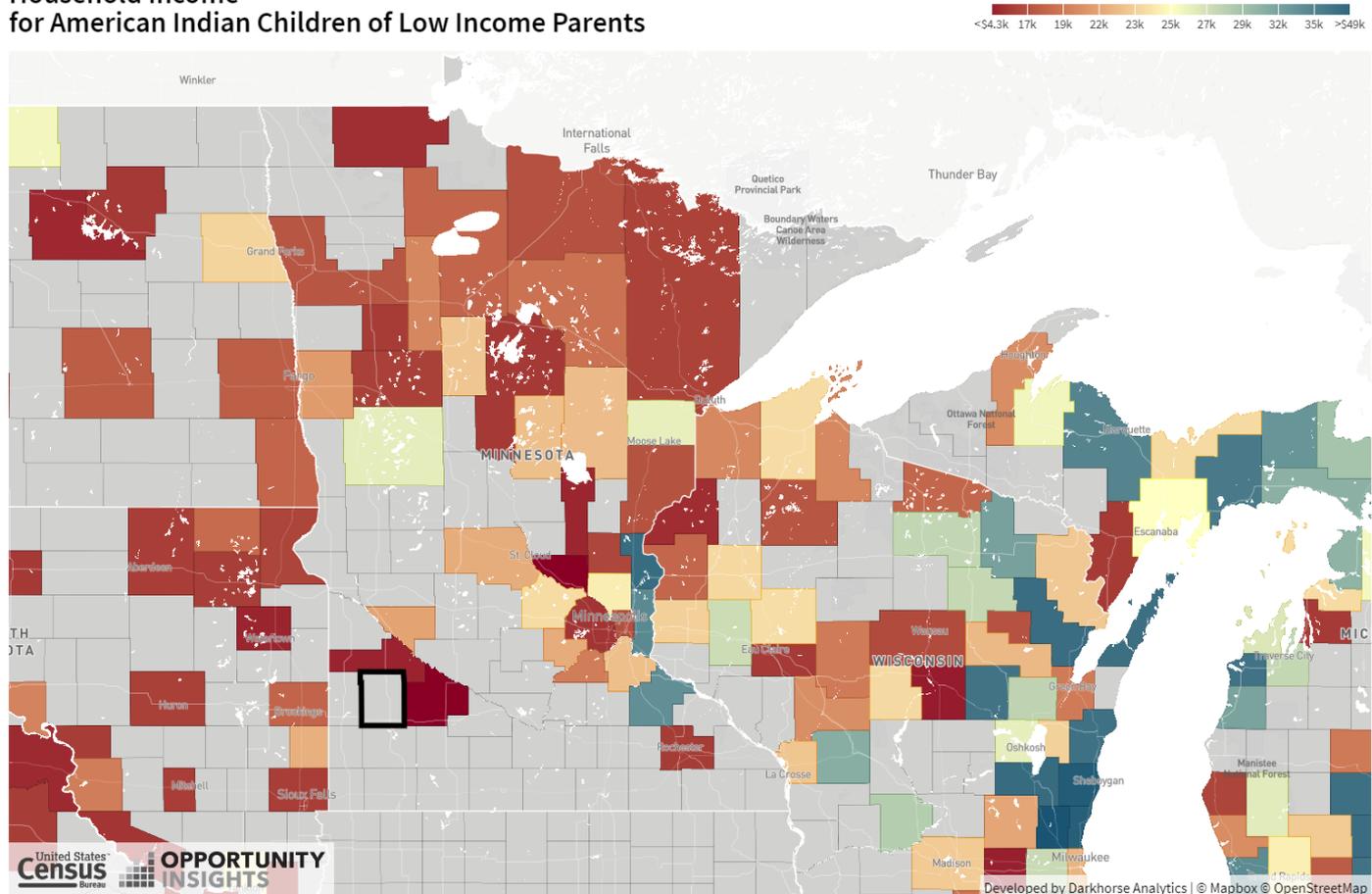
# Upward Mobility for Children of **All Races** in Southwest Minnesota

Household Income  
for Children of Low Income Parents



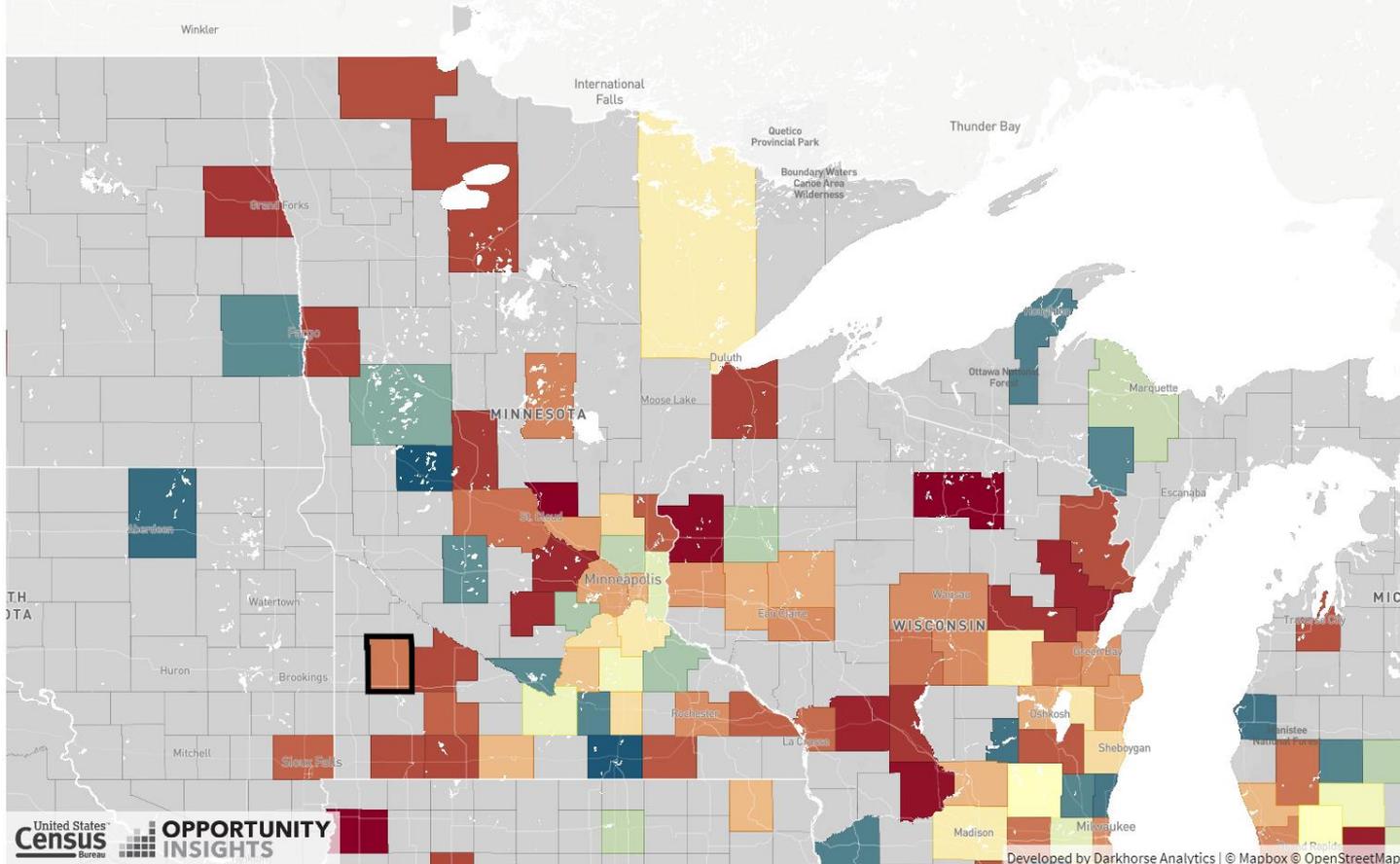
# Upward Mobility for American Indian Children in Southwest Minnesota

Household Income  
for American Indian Children of Low Income Parents



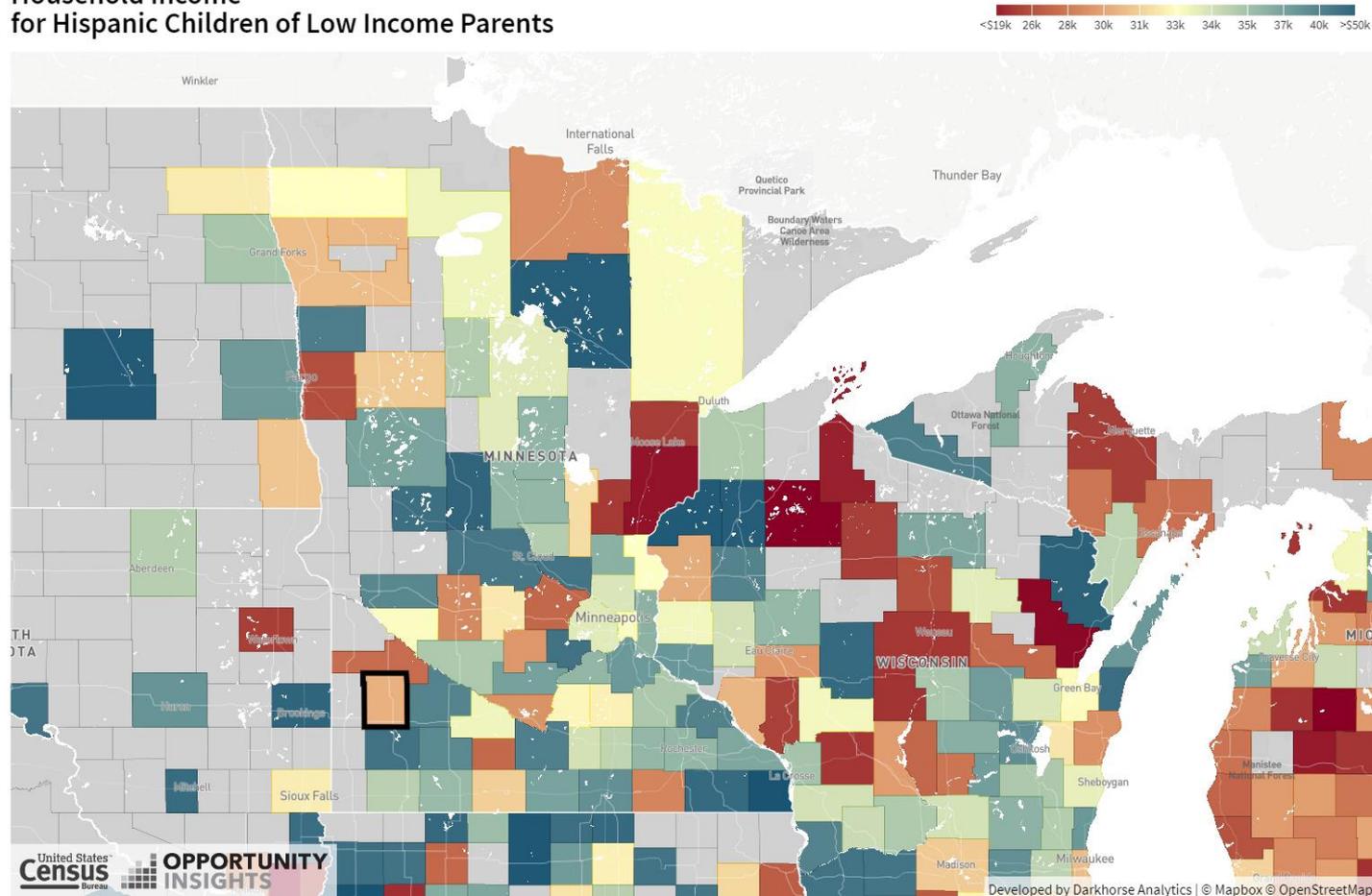
# Upward Mobility for Asian Children in Southwest Minnesota

Household Income  
for Asian Children of Low Income Parents



# Upward Mobility for **Hispanic** Children in Southwest Minnesota

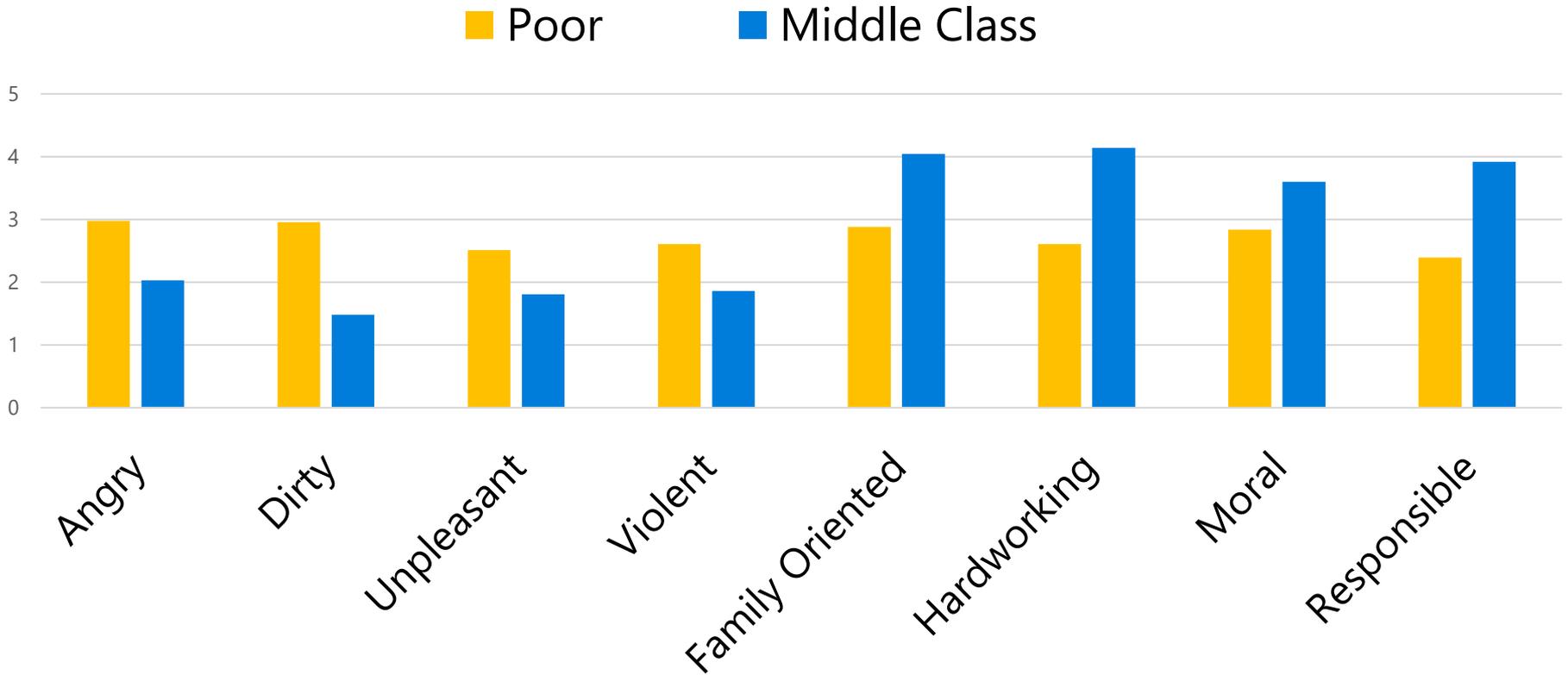
Household Income  
for Hispanic Children of Low Income Parents





**Poverty is isolating &  
stigmatizing**

# Beliefs about Attributes of "the Poor" & Middle Class



**What would it take to dramatically  
increase mobility from poverty?**

# The Partners

**David T. Ellwood, Chair**  
Harvard Kennedy School

**Elisabeth Babcock**  
Economic Mobility Pathways

**Joshua Bolten**  
Business Roundtable

**Arthur C. Brooks**  
American Enterprise Institute

**William J. Bynum**  
Hope Enterprise Corporation

**Raj Chetty**  
Stanford University

**Rev. Luis Cortés, Jr.**  
Esperanza

**Jennifer L. Eberhardt**  
Stanford University

**Kathryn Edin**  
Princeton University

**Robert Greenstein**  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

**Cheryl L. Hyman**  
formerly City Colleges of Chicago

**Anthony B. Iton**  
The California Endowment

**Lawrence Katz**  
Harvard University

**N. Gregory Mankiw**  
Harvard University

**Ai-jen Poo**  
National Domestic Worker Alliance;  
Caring Across Generations

**john a. powell**  
Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive  
Society

**Cecilia Rouse**  
Princeton University

**Juan Salgado**  
City Colleges of Chicago

**Eldar Shafir**  
Princeton University

**Srinija Srinivasan**  
Loove

**Marta Tienda**  
Princeton University

**Jeremy Travis**  
Laura and John Arnold Foundation

**Roxane White**  
The Aspen Institute

**Hirokazu Yoshikawa**  
New York University

# **Dreaming: Big Themes**



WE ARE IN AN ERA OF CHANGE

EXAMINE OUR SOCIAL CONTRACT (LABOR) LABOR LAWS ARE OUTDATED

# Race, Inclusion, Rights, & Dignity

WE NEED A FLEXIBLE, MODERN SYSTEM SUPPORTIVE

DEFINING WHO WE ARE

IN THE US, DEFINED BY RACE

DEFINES WHO BELONGS  
CHILD LABOR  
RACIAL EXCLUSION  
UNDERVALUED, OVERWORKED, UNDERPAID LABORERS  
SHADOW ECONOMY  
NO SAFETY NET

LABOR MARKET

43% OF AMERICANS MAKE UNDER \$15/HOUR

OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR ECONOMY, OUR SCHOOLS BELONG TO EVERYBODY

NEW POLICIES, GET TO A BETTER PLACE (RETELL A NEW NARRATIVE)

CAREGIVING JOBS ARE THE FASTEST GROWING... YET THEY MAKE VERY LITTLE INCOME

WE WANT MIXED INCOME HOUSING??

GIVE WORKERS A VOICE

IS THIS SOLVED BY EDUCATION? INCREASING WAGES

LARGER WAY OF WORKING ARE CHANGED  
HOW WILL CAREGIVING JOBS BE AFFECTED? ENSURE WE MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS

WE MUST BE THERE TO SHOW ITS VALUE

WHY DOES THE US UNDERVALUE EDUCATION?

THE LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT IS, THE MORE OPPORTUNITY MINORITIES HAVE

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES ACCESS & OPTIONS EDUCATION SUCCESS

MUST PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

PEOPLE ARE BEING REPLACED BY AUTOMATION & TECHNOLOGY UNSKILLED LABOR

SHED STEREOTYPES AROUND (COMMUNITY) COLLEGE IS BUT THEY ARE SUFFERING TO RETAIN STUDENTS

EDUCATION WILL BE A SOLUTION

CAREERS NOT DEGREES! LISTEN TO EMPLOYERS THINK SKILL SETS

## Shifting Market Forces

INCOME INEQUALITY STARTS INCREASING IN THE MID-70s

WE MUST PROVIDE THE BEST CHOICES

WHAT WILL THEY DO IF WE FIGHT THEM?

IMMIGRATION EFFECT ON MARKET

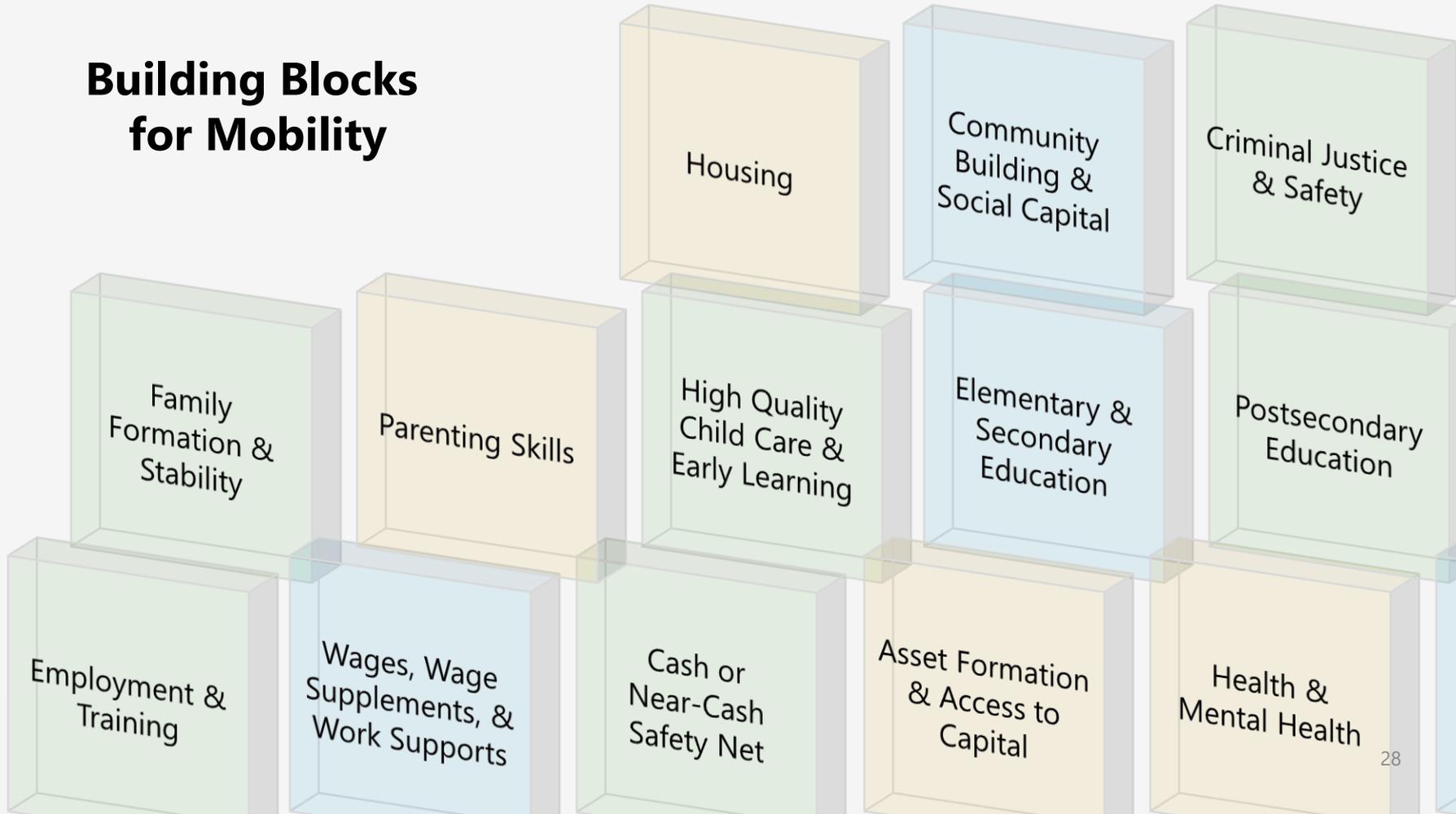
WHAT POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES DO WE HAVE?

US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty. 05.12.16.

ImageThink25

# **Exploration: Building Blocks for Mobility**

# Building Blocks for Mobility





Site Visits: Detroit

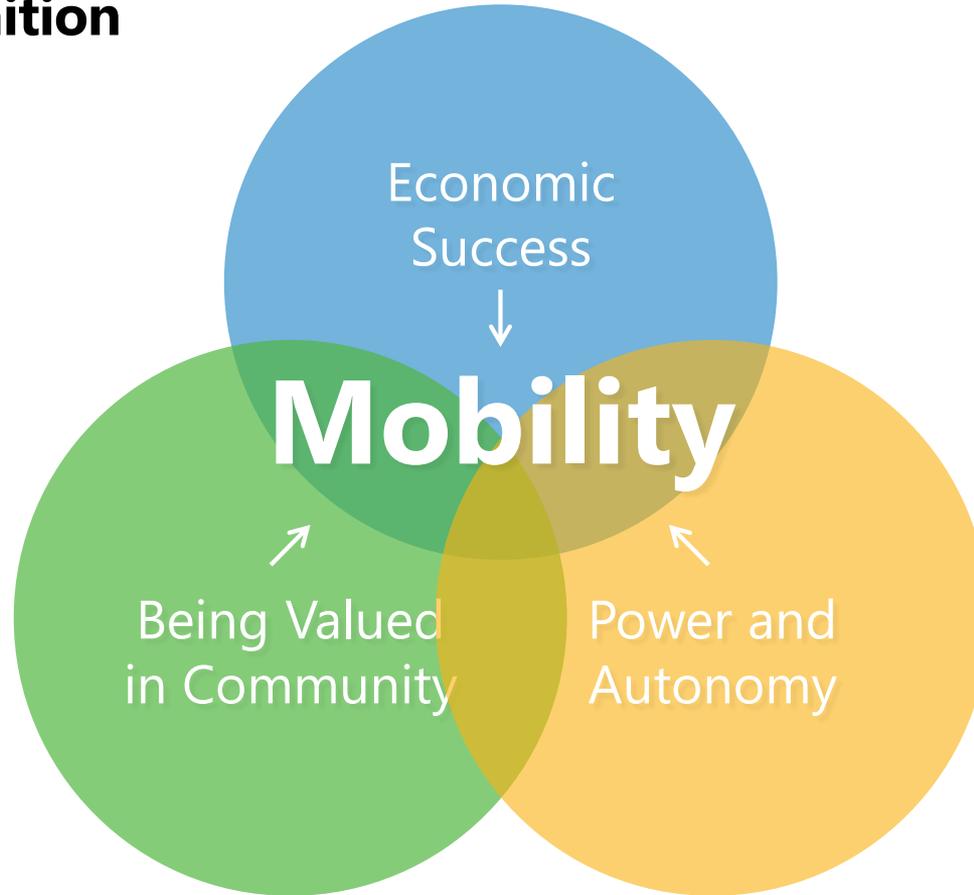


**Site Visits:** Mississippi Delta

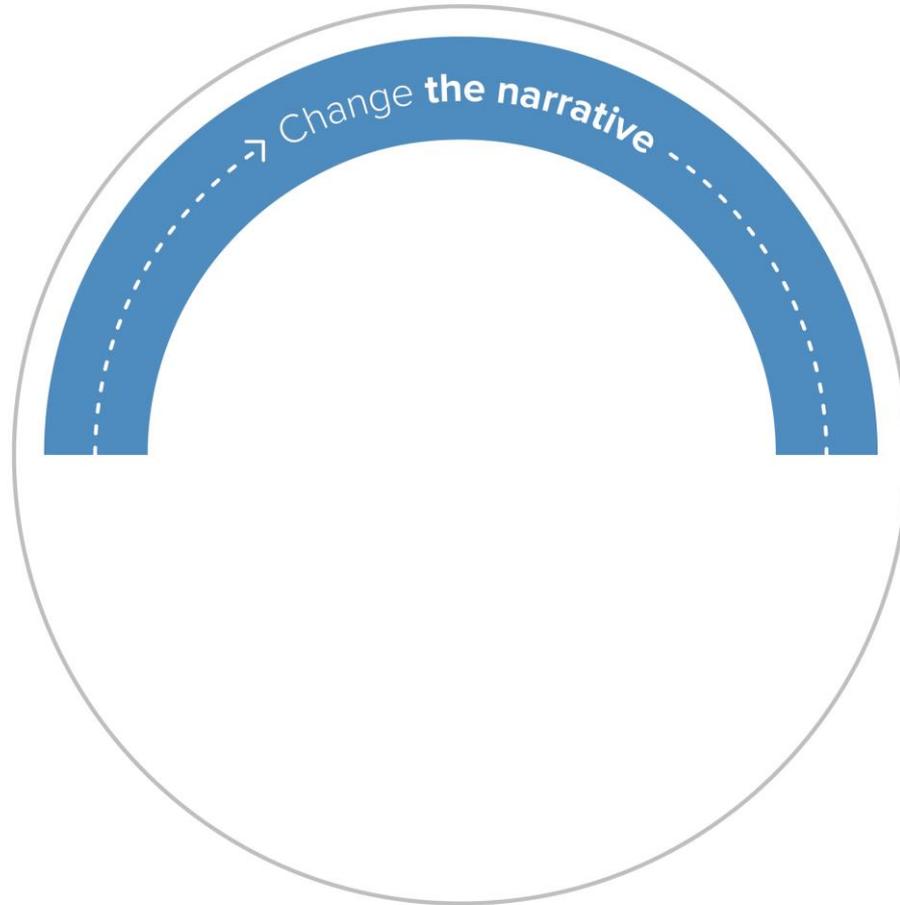


**Site Visits:** Mayfair, East San Jose

# Mobility Definition



# Strategies





*Narratives are like the air we breathe: It's the context for everything.*

— Ai-jen Poo, Partnership member

**Narrative:  
The challenge**



People in poverty have no one to blame but themselves.



People in poverty are victims of systems that hold them back.



“Rags-to-riches” stories prove the American Dream is achievable.

## Narrative: Solutions



Humanize  
people in  
poverty

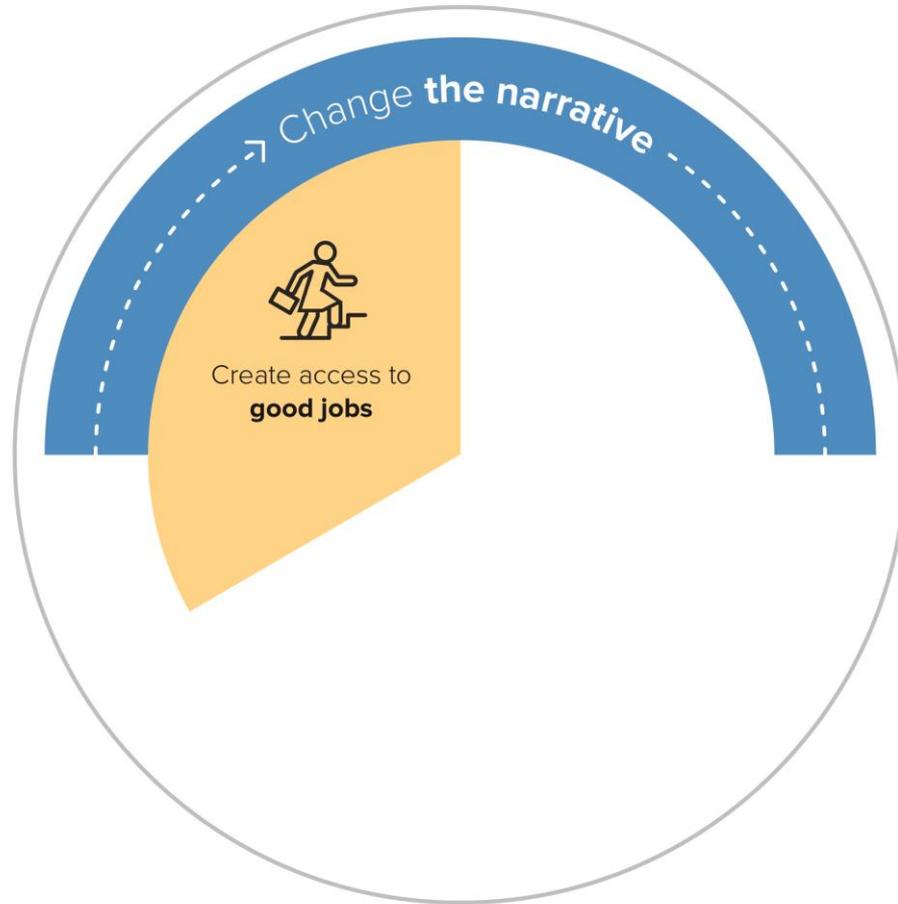


Expose  
structural  
forces



Identify  
allies

# Strategies



## Create Access to Good Jobs



*Robots don't yet do empathy.*  
— Larry Katz, Partnership member

# Strategies



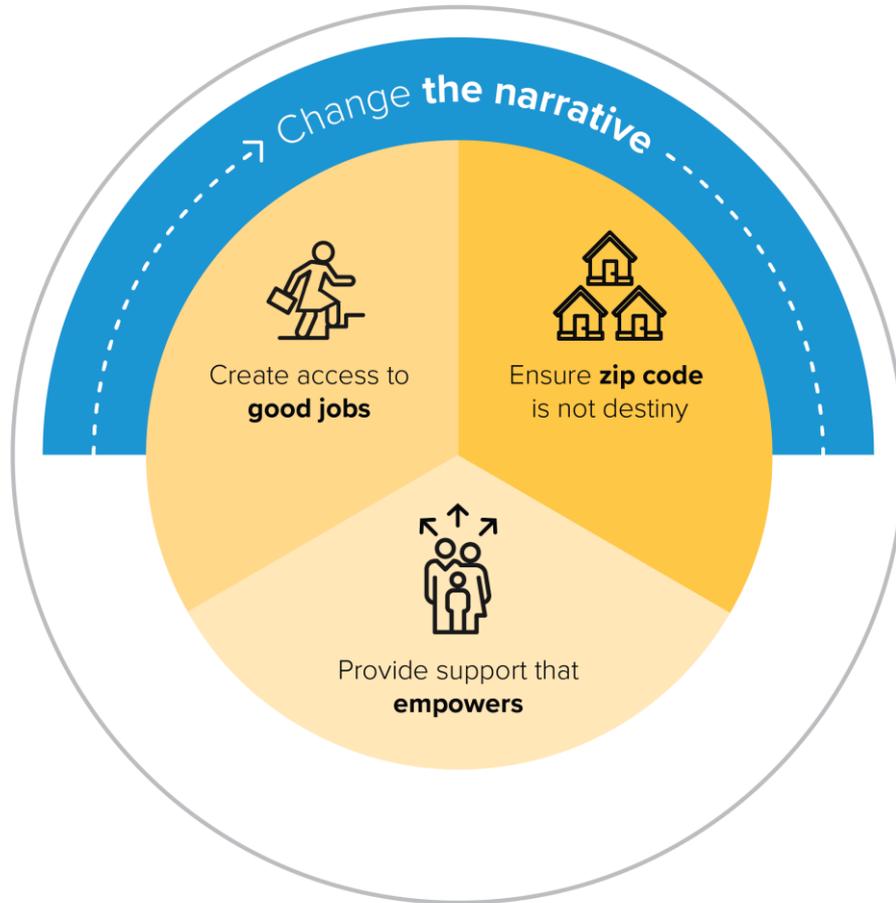
## Ensure Zip Code is Not Destiny



*The community [should] work with people for solutions. It works if you feel like you're both understanding why you're doing it and you have a choice in it. As opposed to something being done to you.*

—African American woman & Detroit resident

# Strategies



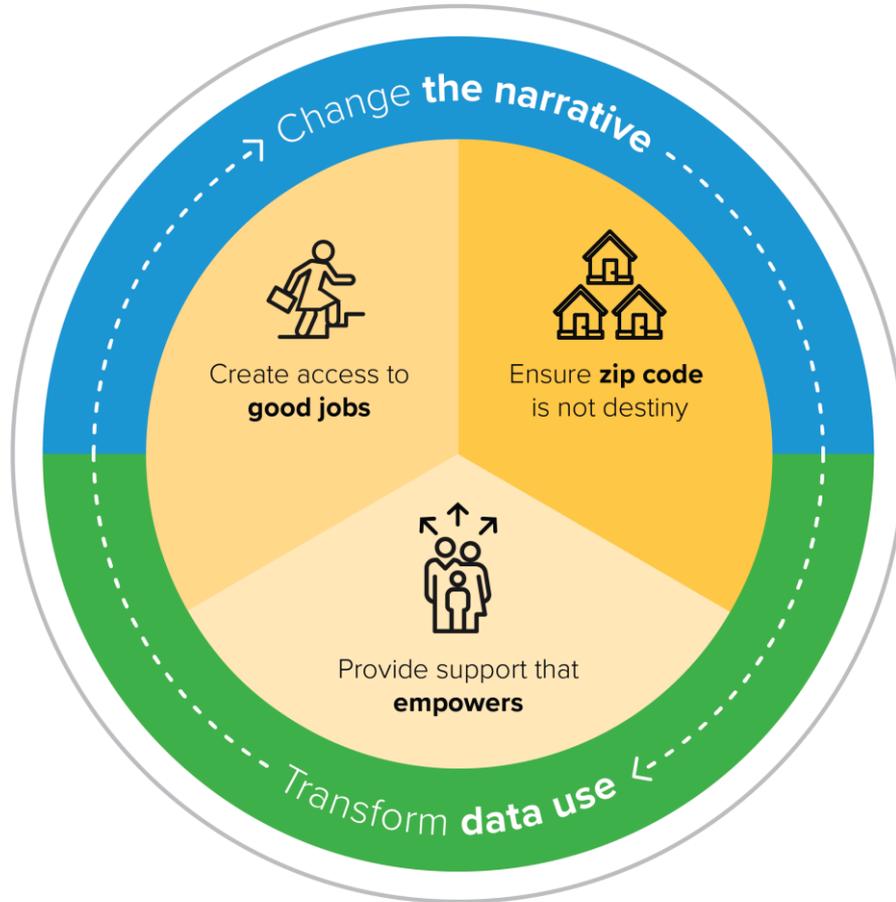
## Provide Support that Empowers



*Lummi people do not consider themselves poor because they are following the values of their elders: family , land & water, balance, love & respect, and voice. There is no word for poverty in their language. It would most closely translate to, “to be without family,” which would never happen.*

—Lummi woman & resident of Lummi Nation

# Strategies





## Transform Data Use

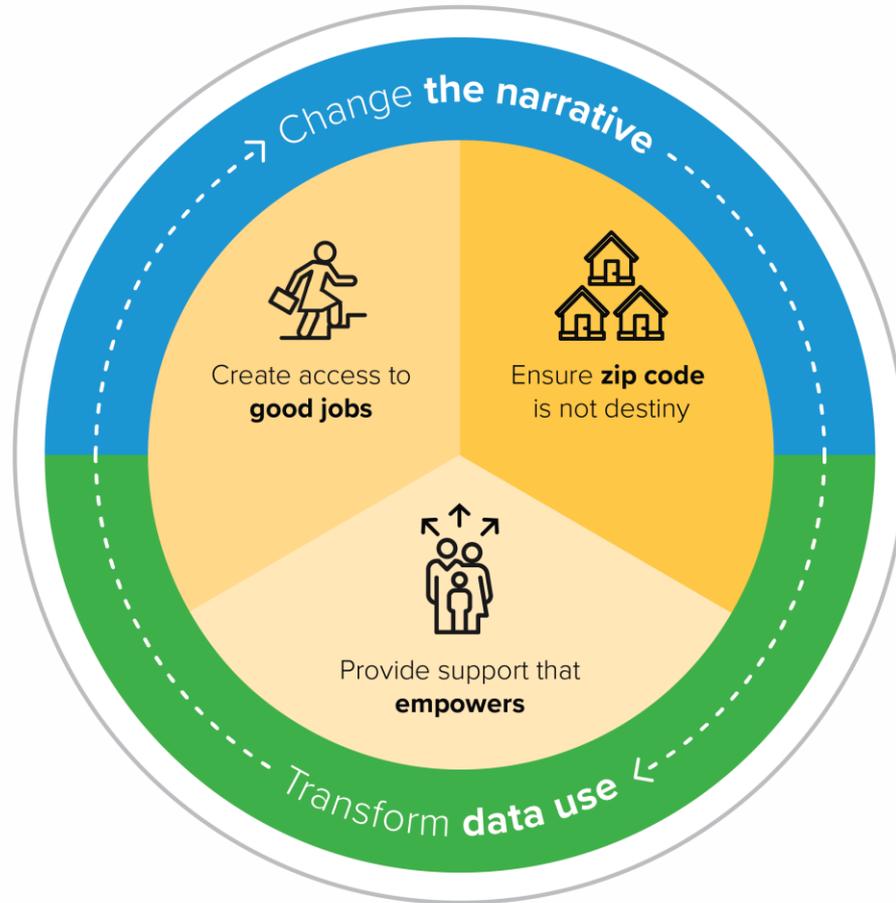
*We review every child death that happened in the city. . . In many cases, each of us has a file on the child or the family at least an inch thick.*

—Dr. Leana Wen, Commissioner of Health, City of Baltimore

**Mutually reinforcing  
strategies**

**+**

**Cross-sector  
collaboration**



**Cue the video!**



## For further information



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