

A photograph of a Black woman and a young child, both smiling and looking upwards. The woman is in the foreground, and the child is behind her with one arm raised. The image is framed by a collage of colorful, overlapping triangles in shades of green, yellow, orange, red, and purple. A semi-transparent purple banner is at the bottom left, and a QR code is in the bottom right corner.

The Mobilizing Chicagoland Summit presents the

State of Poverty in Chicagoland

**Scan to invest in
Chicagoland**



Born of the Civil Rights Movement

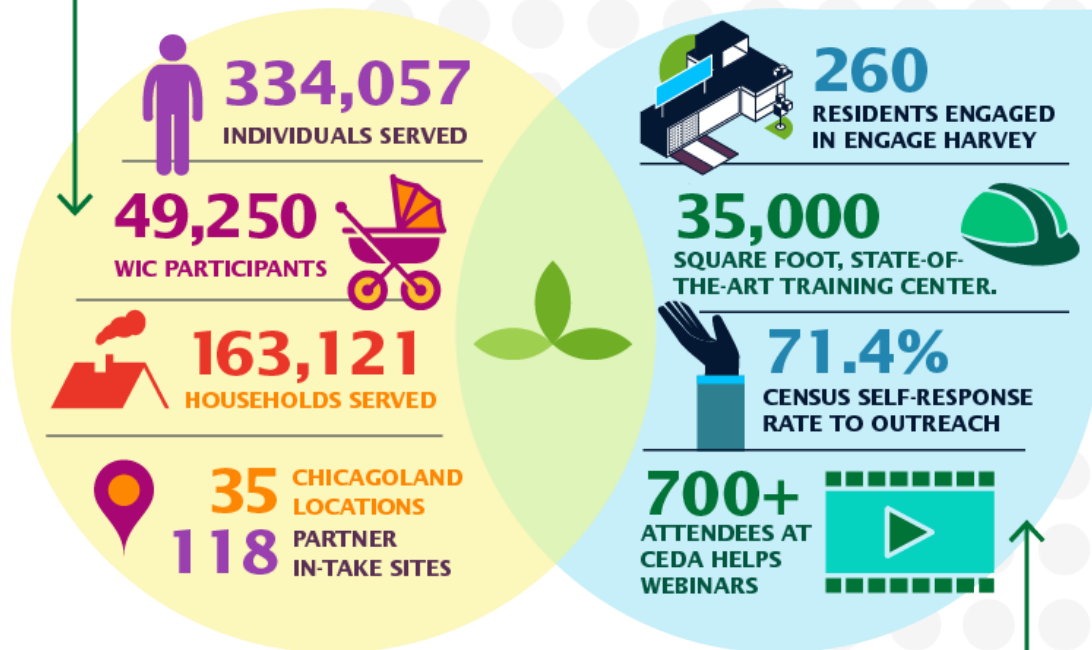
The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



Our Impact

CEDA BY THE NUMBERS



Agenda

State of Poverty Report

Exploring the results of our 2021 Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment

Panel Discussion



Welcome, Panelists!



Alexa James, MS, LCSW

Chief Executive Officer,
NAMI Chicago

Welcome, Panelists!



Karen Freeman-Wilson

President & Chief Executive Officer,
Chicago Urban League

Welcome, Panelists!



Dr. Jamilah R. Jor'Dan

Executive Director, Illinois Governor's
Office of Early Childhood Development

Welcome, Panelists!



Julio Rodriguez

Deputy Director, Office of Employment
and Training (DCEO)



Thank you, Jane!

A photograph of a woman with dark curly hair and a young girl with dark curly hair. The woman is wearing a light-colored sweater and is smiling down at a pink piggy bank. The girl is wearing a yellow sweater and is also smiling. They are both looking at the piggy bank. The background is a light-colored wall. There are colorful geometric shapes (triangles) in the corners of the image.

State of Poverty Report, 2021

Who We Serve

Biggest Barrier

“I’m a single parent and I have two children with special needs. I’m not working, and my biggest need is childcare. And not just any childcare, but one that understands.”

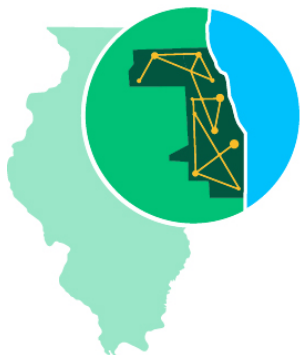
Relationship to Community

“Because of what’s going on in my area – it’s like I’m almost scared to come out of my house at times. I hear things happening in my area. So, I’m fearful.”

My Hope

“I want to see more affordable programs for the youth. From as soon as they’re walking through high school.”

Poverty in Cook County



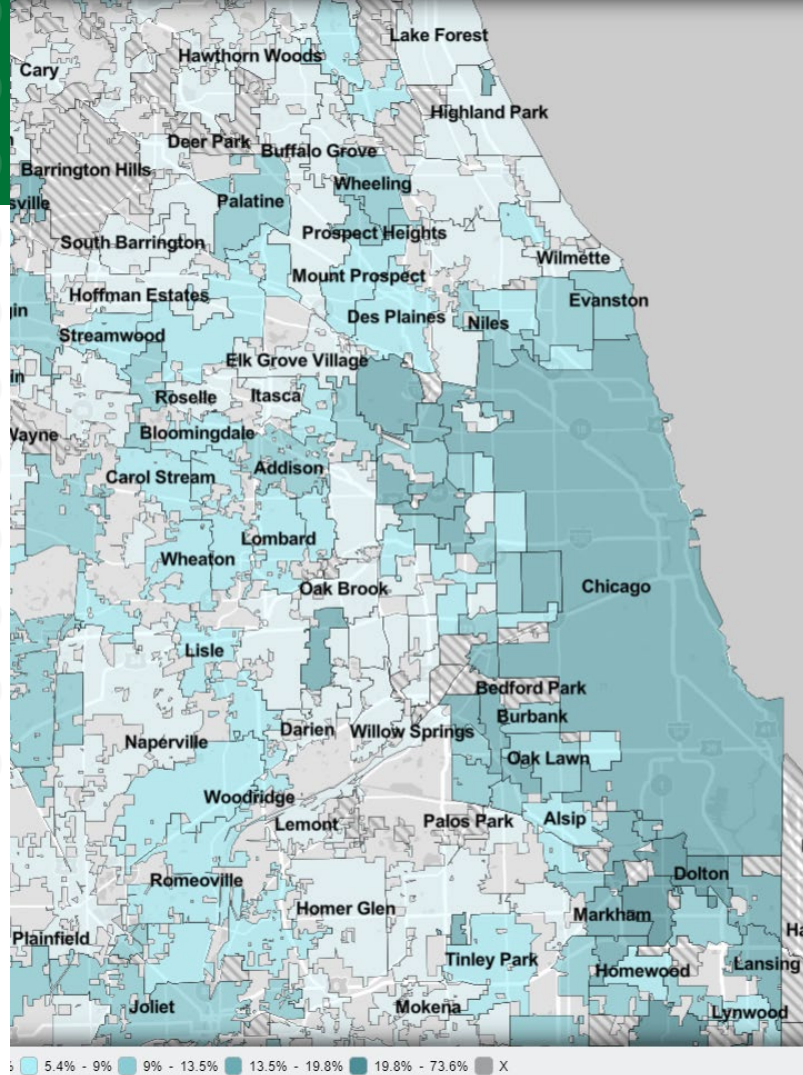
14.4%
Cook County
Poverty Rate



1 in 10
people live in
poverty



<https://www.census.gov/>



Demographics of Poverty



1 in 5

Children live
in poverty



48%

Black and Hispanic
individuals live in
poverty



26.9%

Single female-
headed households
are low-income

Top Challenges, Needs, and Worries

Challenges

1. Financial Issues
2. Housing
3. Employment

Needs

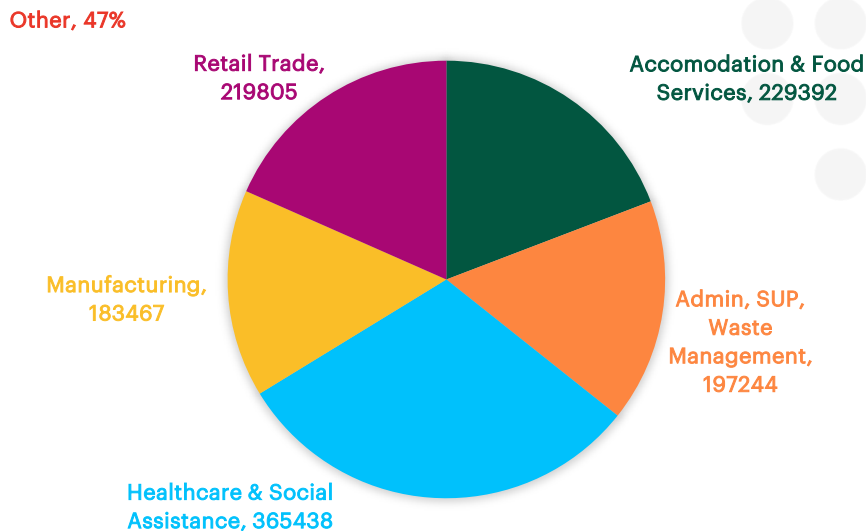
1. Paying utility bills
2. Building credit
3. Paying for car repairs

Worries

1. Crime & Safety
2. Income & Finances
3. Bills

The Pandemic & Employment

TOP 5 INDUSTRIES IN COOK COUNTY



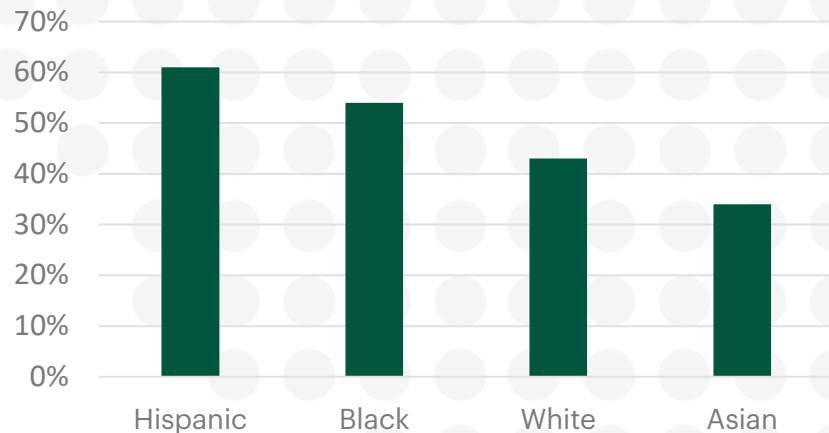
A lot of people will say, “Why don’t you just go back to work?” Not everybody has that option. I’m almost 50. For a lot of these jobs, they want someone young who can move around and unload trucks. I can’t do that anymore. And in order to get a decent, livable wage, I have to have all these different skills that I don’t have.



Racial Inequity & Employment

“A stimulus check is a nice Band-Aid. But we need to really combat the systemic racism that has kept Black people oppressed for so many years. And that oppression manifests in land, in real estate, in owning your own business – and that’s something I would like to see changed.”

EXPERIENCED EMPLOYMENT LOSS

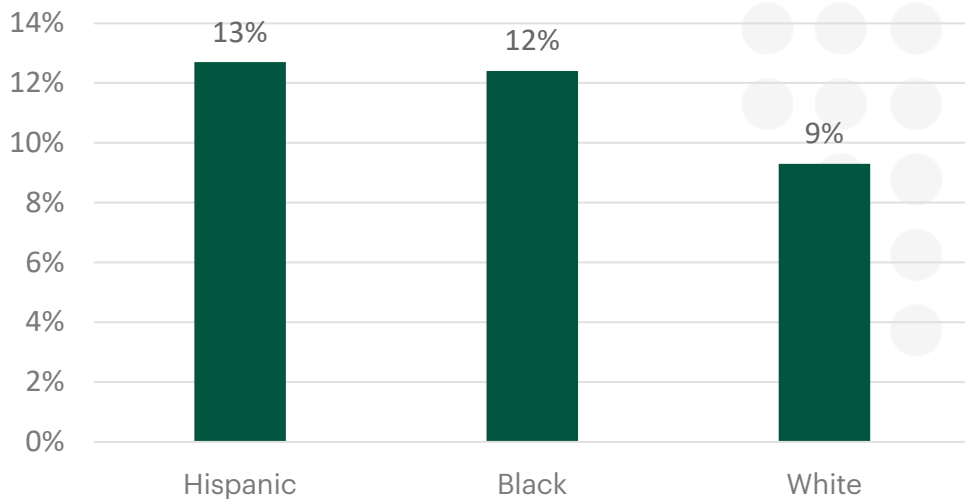


42%

of Black and Hispanic individuals in Chicagoland filed for unemployment March 2021

Gender Inequality & Employment

2020 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AMONG WOMEN



Childcare is astronomically expensive. As a registered nurse in a management position, one full paycheck a month was going to childcare. And almost all of the other paycheck was going toward housing and my cost of living.



Education



6 MONTHS

learning loss for Black and Hispanic students, compared to 4 months for white students



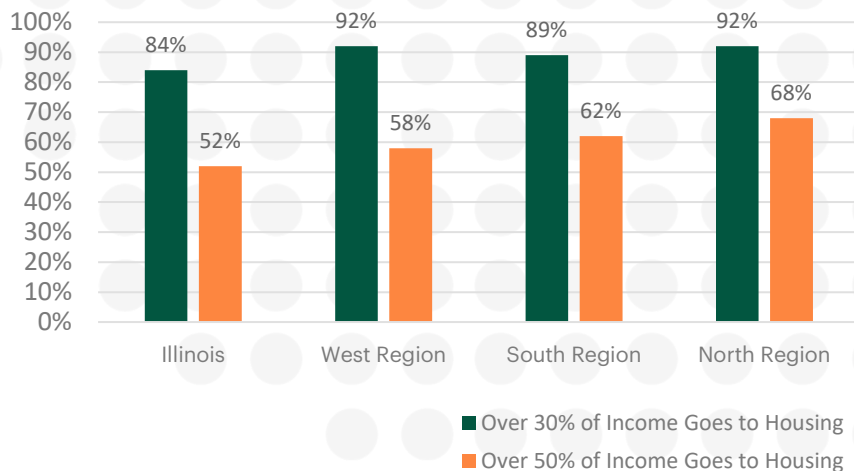
7 MONTHS

learning loss for low-income students, compared to 4 months in for more financially-stable students

Housing Crisis

“ Because I could only get \$90 a week in assistance, I had to move out of my apartment. I was planning to move in with my dad, who got sick in 2019, because I’m his caregiver now. But if I hadn’t had that option, I’d be homeless. ”

Housing Burden in Low-Income Communities



What Our Community Wants to See

- Youth activities, jobs, and safe places
- Mental health counseling and emotional support for all ages
- Improved systems for find information and resources
- Financial education, credit repair, and money management

Our Neighbors Need Us

“ I know we need goals and aspirations, but if I get up in the morning, find out that I can move, and that I can do little stuff, I’m happy. And I guess when I get into the year more, maybe I’ll think about doing something, but at this point I am taking it day by day.

”



CEDAorg.net/CommunityNeeds