

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2021

Community Needs Assessment Executive Summary

To further the vision of community action and ensure we're tailoring our programming to meet the needs of those living in poverty, every three years we survey thousands of Chicagoland households about their biggest challenges. This year, our resident survey took place March - September of 2020, so this community data can help guide our transition from pandemic response to recovery – to start

REBUILDING TOGETHER. STRONGER.



Poverty in Chicagoland

Compared to the nation, Cook County has higher rates of poverty.

Poverty Rate

12.3%
NATIONAL

14.4%
COOK COUNTY

One in 10

CHICAGOLAND INDIVIDUALS
LIVE IN POVERTY



Demographics of Poverty

Across the US, those living in poverty are disproportionately women, people of color, and young.

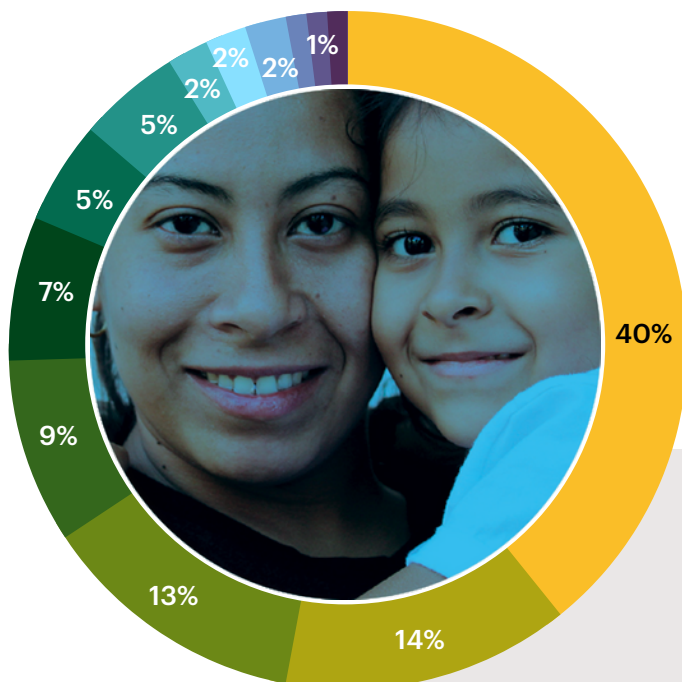
The largest group of people living in poverty are **Black women ages 25-34**.

Despite making up only 37% of the population, **over half of those living in poverty are Black or Latino**.

One in five children in Cook County live in poverty.

Greatest Challenges, Needs, and Worries

When we asked thousands of Chicagoland individuals what barriers to prosperity they face, what their biggest needs are, and what worries them the most, the answers painted a clear picture.



GREATEST CHALLENGES

- Financial
- Housing
- Employment
- Other
- Health
- Food
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Legal
- Basic Needs
- Education
- Parenting
- Returning Citizens
- Child Development

Has this challenge been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic?

76% YES 18% NO 6% OTHER

TOP NEEDS

- 1 Help paying utility bills
- 2 Help building my credit
- 3 Help paying for car repairs
- 4 Helping my child cope with stress, anger, depression, or emotional issues
- 5 Setting goals and planning for my family

See all Top Needs on page ## of the Community Needs Assessment

TOP WORRIES

- 1 Crime and Safety
- 2 Income and Finances
- 3 Bills
- 4 Food
- 5 Jobs/ Employment
- 6 Rent
- 7 Housing
- 8 Drugs/drug dealing
- 9 Health
- 10 COVID-19

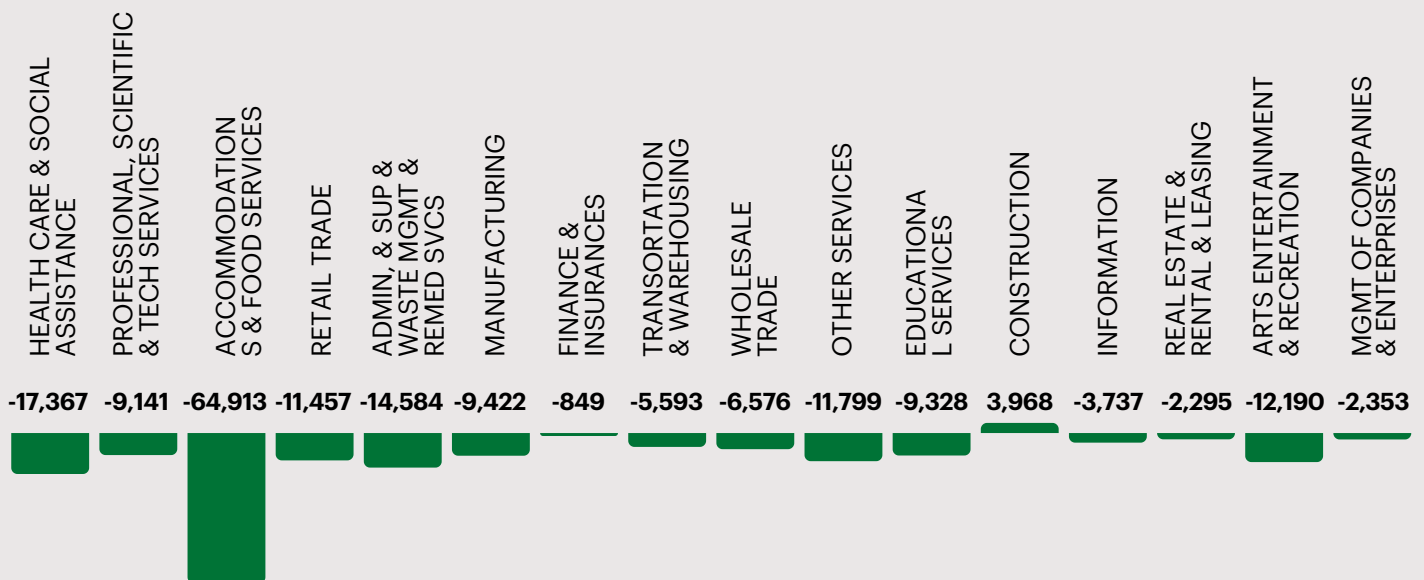
See all Top Worries on page ## of the Community Needs Assessment

Key Findings

INEQUITY IN EMPLOYMENT

Compared to the nation, economic recovery is slow in Cook County – and unemployment rates are among the highest in the state. The unintended consequences of necessary lockdowns and stay-at-home orders were devastating for critical industries employing thousands of low-wage workers.

Mar 2020-Sept 2020: Change in Cook County Jobs



RACIAL INEQUITY WORSENE

Racial inequities persisted or worsened during the pandemic with communities of color experiencing more severe health and economic suffering.

Unemployment Growth Rate in Illinois



COVID-19 Infection Rates per 1000 in Chicagoland



COVID-19 hospitalization rates of Black suburbanites were more than double that of Whites.

237%



GENDER INEQUITY & CHILDCARE

Chicagoland women can't return to work due to the lack of affordable, accessible childcare. Because women handle a disproportionate amount of caregiving, unaffordable childcare means mothers, aunts, and grandmothers have to forgo a career to care for the kids.

\$13,500

Annual childcare costs for a baby in Cook County*

\$13,752

Median annual rent in Cook County

\$27,750

National poverty threshold for a four-person household

*Illinois Action for Children, 2018

GROWING CRIME

Crime plagues the county and low-income communities especially. Cook County saw the highest homicide rate in 27 years in 2021.

Harvey, IL recorded the highest number of homicides in Cook County in 2021.

HOMICIDE RATE IS ALMOST
5x HIGHER
THAN CHICAGO'S

32.8%
OF HARVEY RESIDENTS LIVE IN POVERTY.

HOUSING CRISIS

Housing costs are **UP 72%** since the start of the pandemic and 91% of low-income renters are "rent burdened".

35% INCREASE in homeless families with children between 2018 and 2021



A cluster of colorful, overlapping geometric shapes (triangles, squares, and polygons) in shades of purple, blue, green, yellow, and red, located in the top left corner of the page.

How We Can Rebuild Together. Stronger.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to poverty. While we leverage our 55 years of partnerships and community engagement to drive our strategic direction, the results of this Community Needs Assessment will bring that vision into focus.

But we can't do it alone.

To empower individuals to mobilize out of poverty, we need to come together and do the work.

Join us in building an equitable Chicagoland.

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Rebuilding Together. Stronger.

By listening to community voices and letting them guide our direction, we can drive toward a thriving Chicagoland.

You can download the full Community Needs Assessment at CEDAorg.net/CommunityNeeds.

