

# PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY IN NORTH CAROLINA

## A View of What Is at Stake and What is Possible



Poverty remains elevated in North Carolina, creating barriers to opportunity in the daily lives of 1.4 million Tar Heels and cost us all directly and indirectly through the lost potential for full participation in our communities.

Despite the economic recovery that began nationally in 2009, the persistence of elevated rates of poverty and the differences in the rates of poverty experienced by people based on the color of their skin, their gender, age or where they live make our it impossible to declare our economy healthy and thriving.

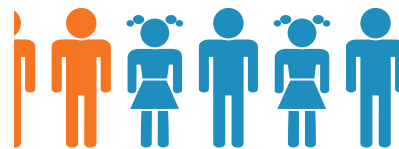
The good news is we have the tools to remove the barriers to educational attainment, health and well-being, civic participation and long-run economic mobility that come from elevated, concentrated economic hardship. We all stand to benefit if we use those tools. We just need the will to do so.



1 in 7

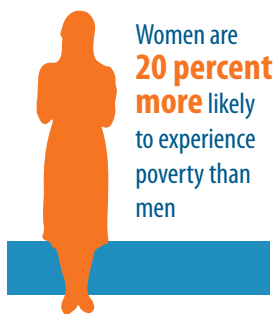
North Carolinians live in poverty or with income below \$24,600 for a family of four. This means that each month 1.4 million North Carolinians fall short of meeting a conservative estimate of household expenses by \$29,000.

Where people live, the color of their skin, and their gender also matter for the likelihood of experiencing poverty. Historic barriers to opportunity built through policy choices and disinvestment in rural communities and communities of color continue to play out in today's numbers on hardship.



More than 1 in 5

children in North Carolina live in poverty. A childhood of living in poverty has been shown to decrease health and well-being, educational attainment and lifetime earnings.



Women are **20 percent more** likely to experience poverty than men



Women of color are **more than twice** as likely to experience poverty than white women



Children of color are **nearly three times** as likely to experience poverty than white children



North Carolinians in rural communities are **30 percent more** likely to experience poverty than those in the rest of the state

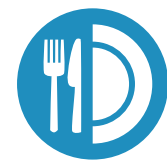


**1 in 10** older North Carolinians live in poverty far below the state average

When we have in place systems and proven anti-poverty policies, like Social Security and SNAP, to address elevated poverty rates, we can see progress.



**27 million** people across the nation were moved out of poverty by Social Security

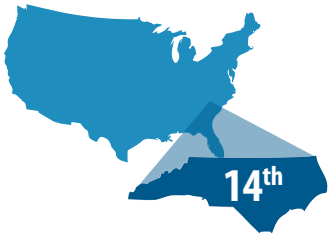


**3.4 million** people across the nation were moved out of poverty due to their ability to access food assistance

Find out why its beneficial and doable to address poverty in North Carolina. [FLIP THE PAGE.](#)

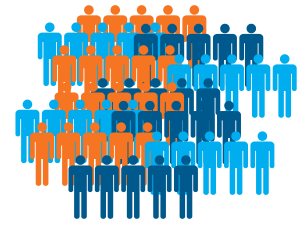
# ITS POSSIBLE (and beneficial to us all) TO ADDRESS POVERTY

To accelerate the downward trend on the rate of poverty in North Carolina and close the gaps in the experience of hardship while doing so is possible with sound public policies and smart public investments.



◀ North Carolina currently ranks 14th in the nation for its high rate of poverty.

To reduce our poverty rate to the lowest state rate in the nation would result in 700,643 North Carolinians living with higher incomes and fewer barriers to opportunity. ▶



700,643

## Eliminating racial disparities in the rates at which North Carolinians experience poverty would result in...

160,000 fewer Hispanic or Latinx North Carolinians in poverty



250,000 fewer African Americans in poverty



17,800 fewer Native Americans in poverty

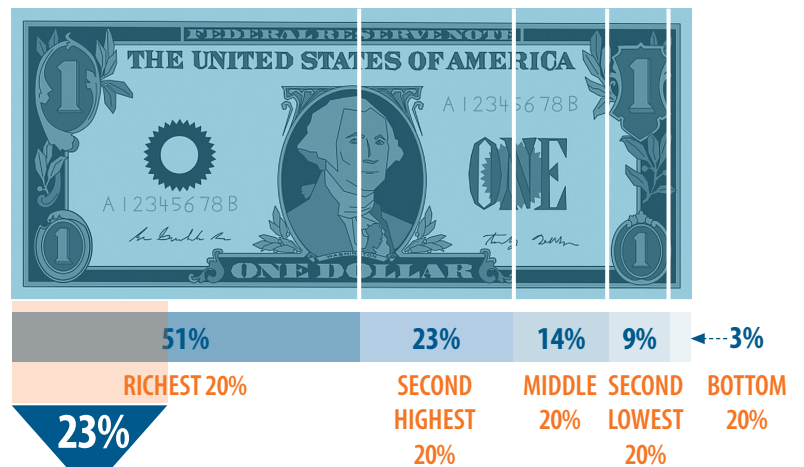


5,800 fewer Asian North Carolinians in poverty



It isn't just people directly affected by poverty who lose out by our failure to act. Although median household income has returned to pre-recession levels, income inequality continues to widen. The TOP 20 PERCENT OF EARNERS in the state account for MORE THAN 50 PERCENT of earned income. Meanwhile, 34 PERCENT of North Carolinians are still considered low-income.

### ALL EARNED INCOME



GOES TO THE RICHEST 23% 5% OF EARNERS

Fewer people living in poverty means:



MORE ACCESS TO THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Education

Health Care

Good Jobs



A STRONGER FOUNDATION FOR REINVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Eliminating inequities and choosing policies that work for all North Carolinians will help our state thrive.