

Financial Insecurity in Chicago: A Data Profile



n Chicago, 20% of families live in poverty, but far more (49%) are financially vulnerable. These "liquid asset poor"families do not have enough savings to live above the poverty level for just three months if they lose a job, face a medical crisis or suffer another income disruption. Communities of color fair even worse: 67% of African-American households and 71% of Hispanic households in Chicago are liquid asset poor.

These households live in a state of persistent financial insecurity — one emergency away from falling into debt or even losing a home. The inability to bounce back from financial pitfalls not only hurts Chicago families, it stifles the city's long-term economic growth.

The findings are part of a new data analysis from Family Assets Count, a project of CFED (the Corporation for Enterprise Development) and the Assets & Opportunity Initiative, in partnership with Citi Community Development and the Illinois Asset Building Group. The analysis spotlights a range of challenges confronting Chicago's vulnerable families:

- Although the city has a 45% homeownership rate, one in three families are "asset poor," meaning they lack sufficient net worth (what they own minus what they owe) to subsist at the poverty level for three months in the absence of income.
- 16% of Chicago families do not have a savings or checking account twice the national rate.
- One in four families has a bank account but still relied on alternative financial services such as check cashing or payday loans in the past year, which means they are paying far too much for accessing their hard-earned money.

Families across the state are struggling to stay above water. A total of 1.8 million Illinois households (38%) are liquid asset poor. Illinois Asset Building Group (IABG) and its partners are working to promote policy solutions at the state and local level, including:

- Passing land-use ordinances to limit the prevalence of predatory lenders like payday, autotitle and rent-to-own stores that entrap families in a cycle of debt.
- Investing in citywide initiatives that help families build and maintain good credit scores through credit-builder loans and credit counseling.
- Creating a universal Children's Savings Account program that gives every Illinois child a savings account.
- Expanding access to the Illinois Bright Start program, making it easier for families to save for their children's college education.
- Ensuring workers struggling with growing consumer, medical and student debt aren't driven further into poverty by an unreasonable and abusive debt collection process.

Through cutting-edge data, tools and resources, Family Assets Count leverages the power of cities to improve financial stability for families and advances programs and policies that reduce barriers and encourage families to save and build assets. For more information and data visit FamilyAssetsCount.org.

Chicago Households

LIQUID ASSET POVERTY

49%

Don't have enough savings to live above the poverty line for three months

ASSET POVERTY

33%

Don't have enough net worth to live above the poverty line for three months

UNBANKED

16% Don't have a checking or savings account

UNDERBANKED



Have a bank account but still use check-cashing or payday loans

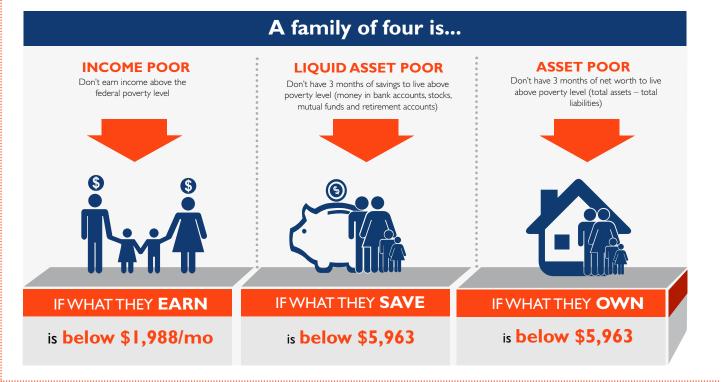


IABG Illinois Asset Building Group Asset Poverty & Liquid Asset Poverty: CFED, 2014 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard; U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP, used for US and all states excluding AK, DC, SD, WY); FDIC, Unbanked and Underbanked: 2011 FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households (used for US, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the 71 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas). Estimates for more localized geographies are derived from CFED's statistical modeling process using the FDIC or SIPP and 2008-2012 American Community Survey data. The figures are geographic estimates and are not meant to directly reflect the FDIC or SIPP data.



MEASURING FINANCIAL INSTABILITY

The concept of asset poverty serves to broaden our definition of financial instability to include not only what a family earns, but also what it saves and owns. Rates of liquid asset and asset poverty are typically far higher than income poverty, demonstrating the pervasiveness of the issue.

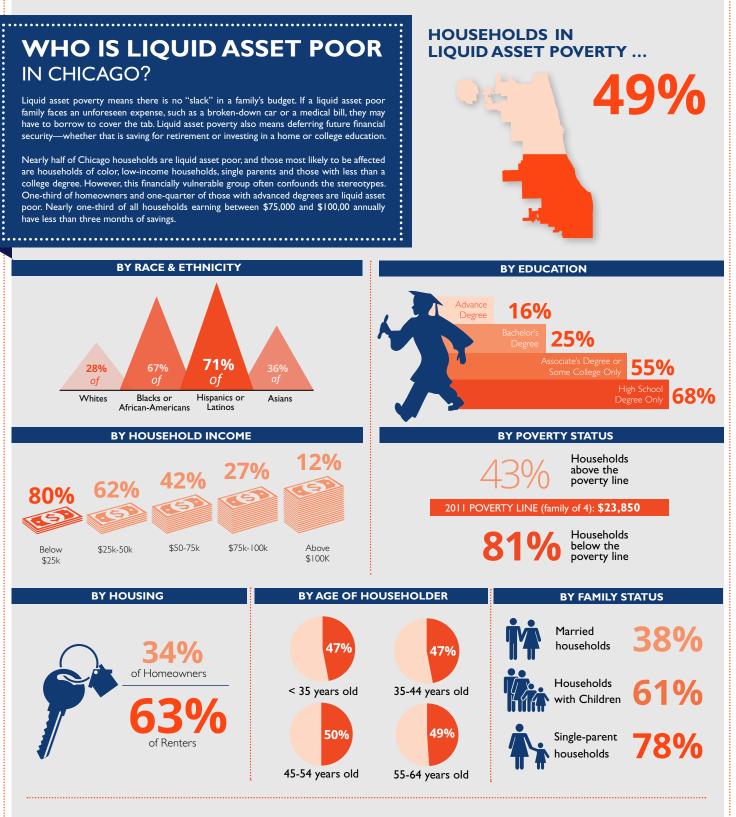


FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT AGENDA FOR CHICAGO

- Support the work of the Office of Financial Inclusion, spearheaded by the City of Chicago Treasurer's office, including:
 - o Coordinating and integrating services across Chicago.
 - o Improving the capacity of organizations to offer financial coaching and credit-building services.
- Break the cycle of debt by:
 - o Protecting residents from predatory lending practices, including payday lending, auto-title lending and private student lending.
 - o Reforming garnishment and wage assignment laws that trap workers in a cycle of debt and prevent them from meeting the basic needs of their families.
- Expand opportunities for long-term financial stability by:
 - o Creating a statewide, universal Children's Savings Account program that puts more children on the pathway to college education.
 - o Removing structural barriers that prevent families from utilizing the Illinois Bright Start Program, the state's 529 college savings program.
 - o Engaging businesses and workers in the implementation of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program.







Note: Liquid asset poverty estimates at the city level are derived from CFED's statistical modeling process using the Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation and the 2008-2012 American Community Survey data. Caution should be used in interpreting the local estimates as the statistical model is based on national surveys of fewer than 50,000 households.



POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Measure	Chicago	Cook County	Chicago MSA*	Illinois	United States
Total Population	2,718,782	5,240,700	9,537,289	12,882,135	311,609,369
Total Households	1,023,839	1,927,303	3,419,489	4,759,131	115,241,776
White	420,230	1,000,817	2,119,827	3,343,132	80,883,267
Black or African-American	326,002	467,425	591,596	660,243	13,872,302
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,939	4,664	8,212	10,481	818,268
Asian	58,497	114,093	176,430	193,816	4,704,838
Hispanic or Latino	206,324	323,704	498,013	513,195	13,627,997
Population with Disability	10.7%	10.2%	9.5%	10.4%	12.1%
U.S. Citizenship Rate	87.3%	88.5%	90.5%	92.5%	92.8%
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	16.4%	15.4%	12.3%	9.5%	8.7%

HOUSEHOLD FINANCES

Measure	Chicago	Cook County	Chicago MSA*	Illinois	United States
Asset Poverty	33.2%	26.2%	22.2%	23.5%	25.4%
Liquid Asset Poverty	49.4%	43.3%	38.4%	38.3%	43.5%
Households with Zero Net Worth	23.3%	18.8%	-	16.3%	17.0%
Median Household Income	\$45,483	\$52,754	\$59,496	\$55,231	\$51,771
White	\$67,254	\$66,976	\$70,881	\$61,661	\$56,699
Black or African-American	\$29,536	\$34,354	\$35,257	\$33,545	\$34,406
American Indian and Alaska Native	\$39,189	\$45,858	\$46,431	\$43,056	\$36,096
Asian	\$53,422	\$65,304	\$74,073	\$72,885	\$70,207
Hispanic or Latino	\$40,211	\$43,850	\$45,941	\$45,217	\$40,857
Income Poverty Rate	19.3%	13.5%	10.7%	10.6%	11.6%
White	6.0%	5.0%	4.5%	6.0%	7.2%
Black or African American	30.0%	25.2%	25.0%	26.5%	23.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	22.6%	20.4%	15.4%	16.1%	24.1%
Asian	15.3%	10.4%	8.4%	8.5%	9.5%
Hispanic or Latino	22.4%	20.0%	18.9%	19.3%	22.8%
Unbanked Households	16.0%	9.3%	8.6%	7.6%	8.2%
Underbanked Households	25.2%	22.0%	16.4%	17.7%	20.1%
Average Credit Card Debt	-	\$11,052	\$11,788	\$10,411	\$9,920
Average Installment Debt	-	\$28,298	\$27,111	\$26,031	\$26,198
Borrowers 90+ Days Overdue	-	4.0%	3.5%	3.3%	3.3%

USE OF SERVICES

Measure	Chicago	Cook County	Chicago MSA*	Illinois	United States
Households Receiving SNAP	18.8%	14.4%	12.0%	12.0%	12.8%
Households Receiving Public Assistance	4.2%	3.4%	2.8%	2.5%	2.9%
Households Receiving SSI	6.7%	5.2%	4.4%	4.4%	5.3%
Total Tax Filers Receiving EITC	25.3%	20.8%	17.6%	17.7%	19.9%
Average EITC Received	\$2,602	\$2,511	\$2,431	\$2,381	\$2,359
EITC Returns Prepared By Volunteer	2.4%	2.0%	1.9%	2.0%	2.6%
EITC Returns Prepared by Paid Preparer	57.7%	58.6%	57.3%	56.6%	57.1%
EITC Refunds Received through Direct Deposit	85.1%	83.3%	83.5%	84.6%	82.8%

* The Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI metropolitan statistical area consists of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, Newton and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.



EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

Measure	Chicago	Cook County	Chicago MSA*	Illinois	United States
Unemployment Rate	12.7%	11.1%	9.8%	9.5%	8.4%
White	5.8%	6.4%	6.8%	7.1%	6.8%
Black or African-American	24.6%	22.9%	21.4%	21.4%	15.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native	-	18.7%	15.9%	16.2%	14.8%
Asian	7.3%	6.9%	6.5%	6.6%	6.5%
Hispanic or Latino	11.9%	11.0%	10.6%	10.8%	10.0%
Average Annual Pay	-	\$57,987	\$55,092	\$52,194	\$49,289
Microenterprise Ownership Rate	7.5%	8.3%	8.3%	8.5%	9.8%
Self-Employed Workers	-	19.9%	17.8%	16.6%	17.3%
Vehicle Non-Availability by Working Household	19.6%	11.8%	7.4%	6.3%	5.2%

HOUSING AND HOMEOWNERSHIP

Measure	Chicago	Cook County	Chicago MSA*	Illinois	United States
Homeownership Rate	44.9%	57.9%	65.7%	67.3%	64.7%
White	54.7%	69.6%	76.1%	75.6%	72.1%
Black or African-American	34.3%	40.5%	40.7%	39.9%	43.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	40.5%	51.8%	60.0%	57.4%	54.1%
Asian	42.1%	53.9%	61.5%	59.7%	57.7%
Hispanic or Latino	42.9%	48.9%	53.3%	52.9%	46.4%
Cost-Burdened Renters	54.1%	53.7%	53.3%	52.1%	52.8%
Cost-Burdened Owners	47.0%	46.0%	42.2%	37.9%	36.2%
Affordability of Homes	5.0	4.3	3.7	3.3	3.4
Seriously Delinquent Mortgages	-	4.5%	3.7%	3.2%	2.8%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Measure	Chicago	Cook County	Chicago MSA*	Illinois	United States
Less than High School	19.2%	15.7%	13.4%	12.7%	14.1%
High School Degree or Higher	80.8%	84.3%	86.6%	87.3%	85.9%
White	93.3%	93.2%	93.8%	92.7%	91.1%
Black or African-American	81.1%	83.4%	84.5%	83.1%	82.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	79.3%	76.6%	75.1%	77.0%	78.3%
Asian	85.8%	89.3%	90.0%	90.1%	85.5%
Hispanic or Latino	59.3%	61.2%	61.6%	61.3%	63.1%
Associate's Degree or Some College	23.8%	25.5%	27.0%	28.7%	29.0%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	25.8%	26.7%	27.0%	25.2%	28.6%
White	56.3%	46.4%	41.7%	34.9%	32.0%
Black or African-American	17.6%	19.2%	19.8%	18.7%	18.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	18.4%	16.1%	15.9%	15.9%	13.4%
Asian	58.3%	60.5%	62.1%	62.4%	50.2%
Hispanic or Latino	12.4%	12.5%	12.4%	12.4%	13.4%
Graduate or Professional Degree	13.3%	13.5%	13.1%	11.8%	10.7%

"-" indicates that no data is available



ASSET POVERTY

Measure	Chicago	Cook County	Chicago MSA*	Illinois	United States
Asset Poverty Rate	33.2%	26.2%	22.2%	23.5%	25.4%
White	18.5%	14.6%	-	-	-
Black or African-American	48.2%	44.2%	-	-	-
American Indian and Alaska Native	39.3%	35.4%	-	-	-
Asian	22.7%	17.7%	-	-	-
Hispanic or Latino	42.2%	39.0%	-	-	-
Renter	54.7%	53.7%	-	-	-
Home Owner	7.7%	6.8%	-	-	-
Less Than High School	52.1%	45.5%	-	-	-
High School Diploma	42.2%	32.4%	-	-	-
Some College	37.2%	28.7%	-	-	-
Bachelor's Degree	20.0%	15.7%	-	-	-
Advanced Degree	14.5%	11.2%	-	-	-
Age < 35	41.1%	39.3%	-	-	-
35 <= Age <= 44	34.6%	29.4%	-	-	-
45 <= Age <= 54	32.2%	23.4%	-	-	-
55 <= Age <= 64	27.4%	19.0%	-	-	-
Married	19.7%	14.6%	-	-	-
w/Kids	40.8%	31.6%	-	-	-
Single Parent	58.4%	50.9%	-	-	-
Inc < \$25k	57.9%	51.0%	-	-	-
\$25k <= Inc < \$50k	38.5%	32.2%	-	-	-
\$50k <= Inc < \$75k	26.7%	22.3%	-	-	-
\$75k <= Inc < \$100k	17.2%	14.0%	-	-	-
Inc > \$100k	7.1%	5.8%	-	-	-
In Poverty	63.4%	58.6%	-	-	-
Above Pov Line	26.8%	21.3%	-	-	-

"-" indicates that no data is available



IMPROVING FINANCIAL SECURITY IN CHICAGO

Although the data are sobering, there are models and practices that can and do work to strengthen opportunity. Economic resilience for Chicago families will require coordinated, strategic partnerships that build from the wealth of existing programs too numerous to list here. Below are some of those programs.

Chicago Financial Education Initiative

The Chicago Financial Education Initiative charges the Chicago Treasurer's Office, Mayor's Office, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Public Library, Department of Family and Support Services, and City Colleges of Chicago to develop a plan that will make financial education accessible to all Chicago youth, their parents and community members. Developed alongside community providers, teachers, principals, researchers and many others, the plan will expand and coordinate financial education in schools as well as the community to put more Chicagoans on a path to financial empowerment.

Bank On Chicago

Bank On Chicago is a joint effort by the Treasurer's Office, local banks and community partners to help unbanked and underbanked Chicagoans gain access to mainstream checking and savings accounts. The initiative strives to ensure that all Chicagoans can access bank products that meet their financial needs and help them build wealth rather than utilizing costly alternatives.

Family Self-Sufficiency

Family Self-Sufficiency is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-sponsored asset-building program for families in federally subsidized housing through Chicago Housing Authority (CHA). CHA partners with financial counselors at Heartland Human Care Services to assist residents in setting and reaching goals toward financial stability and economic self-sufficiency. Over the course of five years, whenever the family's rent increases as a result of increased earnings, CHA places money into an escrow account. When the family reaches their identified goals, they graduate from the program and receive the money in the escrow account, plus interest, to use towards building long-term financial security.

Free Tax Preparation Services

Organizations like the Center for Economic Progress (CEP) & Ladder Up are leading the charge to ensure that working families are receiving the vital tax credits they deserve, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit. Tax time is often the perfect time to check in with families about their overall financial health. Both CEP & Ladder Up provide wrap-around financial services that families need, including assistance with FAFSA, financial coaching and credit counseling.

Financial Coaching

Organizations like the Center for Economic Progress, Heartland Human Care Services, YWCA, North Lawndale Employment Network, Jane Addams Resource Corporation (JARC) and the Resurrection Project provide classroom-based and/or one-on-one financial coaching for participants who wish to improve their credit, savings and budgeting skills. A core curriculum offers participants the chance to learn from their peers and share common successes and challenges. In addition, in working with a trained financial coach, participants receive individualized education regarding finances and employment, make realistic spending and savings plans, and address issues related to their credit history. Matched savings is provided as an incentive, when available.

Credit Building as Asset Building

Many organizations across Chicago are incorporating credit building loans into their financial empowerment work. Leading the effort is LISC Chicago's network of 13 Centers for Working Families (CWF). CWF's financial and credit counselors work with low- to moderate-income families to help them build long-term habits that increase income, decrease expenses and build credit.



DATA MEASURES & SOURCES

	Data Measure	Measure Description	Source
	Total Households	Total number of households	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
on bhics	Total Population	Total population	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
Population emographi	Population with Disability	Percentage of population living with a disability	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
Population Demographics	U.S. Citizenship Rate	Percentage of population that are U.S. citizens	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
	Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	Percentage of population that speaks English less than "very well"	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
	Asset Poverty	Percentage of households without sufficient net worth to subsist at the poverty level for three months in the absence of income	CFED, 2014 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard, Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 10, for US and States (excluding AK, DC, SD, WY). Local Estimates: Estimates at smaller geographies are derived from CFED's statistical modeling process using the SIPP and 2008-2012 American Community Survey data. The figures are geographic estimates and are not meant to directly reflect the SIPP data.
	Liquid Asset Poverty	Percentage of households without sufficient liquid assets to subsist at the poverty level for three months in the absence of income	CFED, 2014 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard, Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 10, for US and States (excluding AK, DC, SD, WY). Local Estimates: Estimates at smaller geographies are derived from CFED's statistical modeling process using the SIPP and 2008-2012 American Community Survey data. The figures are geographic estimates and are not meant to directly reflect the SIPP data.
Household Finances	Households with Zero Net Worth	Percentage of households that have zero or negative net worth	CFED, 2014 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard, Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 10, for US and States (excluding AK, DC, SD, WY). Local Estimates: Estimates at smaller geographies are derived from CFED's statistical modeling process using the SIPP and 2008-2012 American Community Survey data. The figures are geographic estimates and are not meant to directly reflect the SIPP data.
plod	Median Household Income	Median household income in the past 12 months	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
louse	Income Poverty Rate	Percentage of all families with income in the past 12 months below the federal poverty threshold	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
Ť	Unbanked Households	Percentage of households lacking both a checking and savings account	2011 FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, for US, States, DC and 71 largest MSAs. Local Estimates: Estimates at smaller geographies are derived from CFED's statistical modeling process using the FDIC and 2008-2012 American Community Survey data. The figures are geographic estimates and are not meant to directly reflect the FDIC data.
	Underbanked Households	Percentage of households that have a checking or savings account but have used non-bank money orders, non-bank check-cashing services, payday loans, rent-to-own agreements or pawn shops at least once or twice a year or refund anticipation loans at least once in the past five years	2011 FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, for US, States, DC and 71 largest MSAs. Local Estimates: Estimates at smaller geographies are derived from CFED's statistical modeling process using the FDIC and 2008-2012 American Community Survey data. The figures are geographic estimates and are not meant to directly reflect the FDIC data.
	Average Credit Card Debt	Average amount of revolving debt (including debt from credit cards, private label cards and lines of credit) per revolving borrower	TransUnion (Q2 2014)
	Average Installment Debt	Average amount of installment debt per installment borrower	TransUnion (Q2 2014)
	Borrowers 90+ days overdue	Percentage of borrowers who are 90 days or more past due on any debt payments	TransUnion (Q2 2014)



DATA MEASURES & SOURCES

	Data Measure	Measure Description	Source
	Households Receiving SNAP Benefits	Percentage of households that have received SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits in the past 12 months	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
Use of Services	Households Receiving Public Assistance	Percentage of households that have received Public Assistance income in the past 12 months	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
	Households Receiving SSI	Percentage of households that have received SSI (Supplemental Security Income) in the past 12 months	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
	Total Tax Filers Receiving EITC	Percentage of tax filers that received an EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit)	Brookings Institute analysis of 2012 tax filing data
e of (Average EITC Received	Average credit received, in dollars, by tax filers who received an EITC	Brookings Institute analysis of 2012 tax filing data
Us	EITC Returns Prepared By Volunteer	Percentage of tax returns that received an EITC that were prepared by a volunteer	Brookings Institute analysis of 2012 tax filing data
	EITC Returns Prepared by Paid Preparer	Percentage of tax returns that received an EITC that were prepared by a paid preparer	Brookings Institute analysis of 2012 tax filing data
	EITC Refunds Received through Direct Deposit	Percentage of EITC refunds received through direct deposit	Brookings Institute analysis of 2012 tax filing data
SS	Unemployment Rate	Percentage of civilian labor force who are unemployed but actively searching for employment	U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey
usine	Average Annual Pay	Average annual pay for all workers covered by unemployment insurance	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (2010)
: & Bı rship	Self-Employed Workers	Percentage of workers 16 years and over who are self-employed	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
Employment & Business Ownership	Microenterprise Ownership Rate	Number of firms with 0-4 employees (non-employer firms plus establishments with 1-4 employees), per 100 people in the labor force	CFED calculation based on U.S. Census Bureau, Nonemployer Statistics (2008), County Business Patterns (2008), and Current Population Survey (2008); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (2008)
Eu	Vehicle Non-Availability by Working Household	Percentage of households (with at least one worker) lacking access to a vehicle	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
Q	Homeownership Rate	Percentage of occupied housing units that are owner occupied	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
; & ershi _l	Cost-Burdened Renters	Percentage of renter-occupied units spending 30% or more of household income on rent and utilities	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
Housing & Homeownership	Cost-Burdened Owners	Percentage of mortgaged owners spending 30% or more of household income on selected monthly owner costs	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
Ho Iome	Affordability of Homes	Median housing value divided by median household income	CFED calculation based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey data
т	Seriously Delinquent Mortgages	Percentage of all mortgage borrowers currently 90 days or more past due on mortgage loans	TransUnion (Q2 2014)
ient	Less than High School	Percentage of population 25 and older who have not completed high school	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
Educational Attainment	High School Degree	Percentage of population 25 and older who have a high school degree, GED or alternative degree only	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
	Associate's Degree	Percentage of population 25 and older who have an associate's (2 year college) degree or some college	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
	Bachelor's Degree	Percentage of population 25 and older who have at least a bachelor's (4 year college) degree	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey
	Graduate or Professional Degree	Percentage of population 25 and older who have a graduate or professional degree	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey

Family Assets Count is a national project of CFED and Citi Community Development, empowering decision-makers and advocates expanding financial security for vulnerable families in major cities across the US. By providing local data tools and convening key stakeholders, Family Assets Count helps promote the public dialogue and partnerships necessary to advance data-driven municipal solutions to household economic security.





