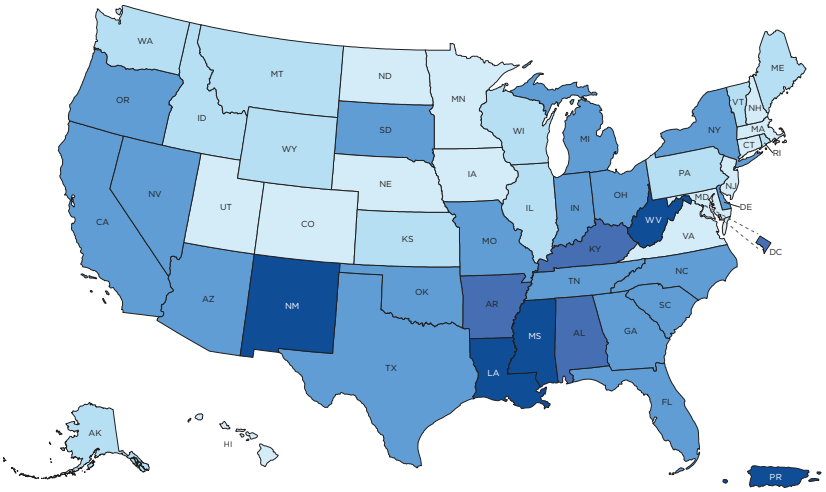
**A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON**

# Deep Poverty

## *Let's Talk About Deep Poverty*

**Deep poverty affects more than 18.5 million people in the United States**. For many, it's a condition that persists generation after generation. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the deep poverty threshold is defined as having income below half of the federal poverty level, or income of $12,170 for a family of four (two adults, two children).




### BY AGE

| | |
|---|---|
| < 18 yrs. old | 18.9% |
| 18-64 yrs. old | 11.6% |
| 65 and > | 9.3% |

### BY RACE

| | |
|---|---|
| Non-Hispanic White | 8.8% |
| Black | 22.0% |
| Hispanic | 19.4% |
| Asian | 10.1% |

Note: U.S. percentage does not include data for Puerto Rico.

Top States, Percentage of People in Poverty (US Census Bureau)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, 2017 Puerto Rico Community Survey

*Living* in deep poverty is more than a number — it is a persistent and entrenched condition that is often characterized by challenges like addiction, homelessness, disability and chronic illness.

Psychologists look at **poverty and scarcity**, examining how limited resources affect our decisions and behaviors, and find:

- Scarcity drains mental resources, narrowing our focus and affecting our choices
- Scarcity increases negative emotions, which influences our decisions
- The effects of scarcity may contribute to the cycle of poverty.

**So how can we move the needle to lift more Americans out of this vicious cycle?**
We encourage you to connect and engage with like-minded organizations and individuals. Select resources are listed on the back of this page.

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

MARCH 1, 2019

**American Psychological Association**
www.apa.org/advocacy/socioeconomic-status

The American Psychological Association advocates for federal policies and programs that reduce poverty and inequality, addressing the needs of low-income populations.

**The Urban Institute**
www.urban.org/policy-centers/income-and-benefits-policy-center
www.urban.org/experts/poverty-vulnerability-and-safety-net
www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDkpWwkXkHw

The Urban Institute's Income and Benefits Policy Center gives decisionmakers crucial information by predicting how policy changes will affect people, programs and government. As technological and demographic shifts transform the nature of jobs, UI's experts on postsecondary education and workforce development study what skills workers will need in the future and what challenges lie ahead for retiring baby boomers. Its research on how the social safety net encourages work and alleviates poverty helps policymakers determine the best use of scarce resources.

**J. Lawrence Aber, PhD**
wagner.nyu.edu/community/faculty/j-lawrence-aber

Research by J. Lawrence Aber, PhD, examines the influence of poverty and violence at the family and community levels, on the social, emotional, behavioral, cognitive and academic development of children and youth. Dr. Aber also designs and conducts rigorous evaluations of innovative programs and policies for children, youth and families, such as violence prevention, literacy development, welfare reform and comprehensive services initiatives.

**National League of Cities**
www.nlc.org/advocacy/federal-action-agenda

In 2015, NLC convened a number of highly respected city leaders to form a Presidential Election Task Force with the goal of forging a truly bipartisan campaign platform for cities. The campaign, Cities Lead, was built on a platform of three issues important to every city: public safety, infrastructure, and the economy. While job growth, increasing residential property values, and improved retail sector health stabilize local economies, these rising tides have failed to lift all boats. The state of our economy today is a tale of two cities. We see an economy that continues to outpace the rest of the world in innovation, but also one that is weighed down by slow productivity growth, suppressed wages and stubborn unemployment.

**Other Resources**
outofpovertycaucus-lee.house.gov/resources/related-organizations

The Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus has curated a list of anti-poverty resources, in areas including National Anti-Poverty Agencies, children's organizations, civil rights, economic development, housing and research. The caucus was founded in 2007 in response to the rising numbers of Americans falling out of the middle class and into poverty.