POVERTY IN FOCUS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S GROWING CRISIS

Compared to the state and nation, poverty in Southern California has risen significantly in the last two decades and is acutely concentrated in households of lower educated workers. From 1990–2012, the share of SCAG residents living below the federal poverty level increased from 13% to 17%. In 1970 both the state and SCAG region were significantly below the national average in terms of poverty. By 1990, poverty in the SCAG region has persistently exceeded both state and national poverty averages, and that gap is growing over time. Today, the region has 3.2 million residents in poverty, up 69% from 1.9 million in 1990, compared to population growth of only 28%. Worse, one in four of our children (25%) is now living in poverty, up from 19% in 1990.

In considering the underlying root causes of poverty, educational attainment is a highly correlated factor. Residents with lower levels of education are likely to find limited employment opportunities with mostly low (and stagnant) wage potential. Poverty rates for working residents without a high school diploma are about 29% in the SCAG region, 60% higher than for those with a high school diploma. The weak earning power for those at the lowest rungs of educational attainment represents a stark picture of the preponderance of the “working poor” in Southern California.

1970
United States 13.7%
California 11.1%
SCAG Region 10.5%

1980
United States 12.4%
California 11.9%
SCAG Region 11.4%

1990
United States 13.2%
California 11.4%
SCAG Region 12.5%

2000
United States 15.7%
California 12.4%
SCAG Region 14.2%

2010
United States 16.3%
California 12.5%
SCAG Region 15.8%

2012
United States 17.0%
California 15.9%
SCAG Region 15.3%

POPULATION IN POVERTY

H ave HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION OR LESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>SCAG Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
<td>70.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unfortunately one clear trend is that education attainment has slipped in the SCAG region compared to national trends. For example, in 1970, 70.4% of adults in the SCAG region had a high school diploma or less, over 8 percentage points better than the national average (78.7%). By 2012, 42.3% of SCAG region adults had a high school diploma or less, trailing the national average (41.7%).

Similarly, 12.7% of SCAG region adults had a BA or higher, exceeding the national average (10.7%) in 1970. In 1990, SCAG’s 21.9% average was still above the national average by 1.6 percentage points, but by 2012, the SCAG region (28.8%) had fallen below the national average (29.1%).

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>SCAG Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$27,319</td>
<td>$25,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>$3,119</td>
<td>$3,708</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCAG region per capita income trends have also stagnated compared to national averages. In 1980, annual SCAG per capita income was over $1,700 above the national average, but by 2012 SCAG per capita income was $1,680 below the national average.

FIFTY YEARS INTO THE WAR ON POVERTY

1 of 15 AMERICANS IN POVERTY ARE IN THE SCAG REGION 2012

Technological Innovations

Despite decades of technological advancements that have made life more comfortable and convenient, the poverty rate at the national, state, and regional levels has generally increased. While we have achieved much in the way of science and technology, more needs to be done now to ensure future generations have access to quality education and good job opportunities.

- **1969**: Apollo 11 Moon Landing
- **1970s**: Personal Computer
- **1973**: Mobile Phone
- **1984**: Personal Digital Assistant (PDA)
- **1990**: The World Wide Web
- **1992**: Smartphone
- **1997**: Hybrid Car
- **2003**: Mapping of the Human Genome
- **2009**: Retinal Implants
The measure before me this morning for signature offers the answer that its title implies—the answer of opportunity. For the purpose of the ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1964 is to offer opportunity.... For the million young men and women who are out of school and who are out of work, this program will permit us to take them off the streets, put them into work training programs, to prepare them for productive lives, not wasted lives. In this same sound, sensible, and responsible way we will reach into all the pockets of poverty and help our people find their footing for a long climb toward a better way of life.

—President Lyndon Baines Johnson
Remarks Upon Signing the Economic Opportunity Act, August 20, 1964

Wednesday, August 20, 2014 | 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
California Science Center, Los Angeles, CA

A SUMMIT ON
Advancing Southern California’s Battle Plan for Victory—
Poverty to Jobs, Workforce Development Tactics & Economic Growth Campaigns
FIFTY YEARS INTO THE WAR ON POVERTY

A Summit on Advancing Southern California's Battle Plan for Victory – Poverty to Jobs, Workforce Development Tactics & Economic Growth Campaigns

In his State of the Union address on January 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared an “unconditional war on poverty in America.” The President and Congress worked together to pass the Economic Opportunity Act, which was signed into law on August 20, 1964. Fifty years later, however, poverty is still a major challenge across the nation. Socioeconomic data presented at the 2013 Southern California Economic Recovery & Job Creation Summit showed that the Southern California region has a much lower than average educational attainment level, which in turn results in an alarmingly low median household income level and extremely high poverty rates. One in four children lives below the poverty line. Even after fifty years, more needs to be done.

The Southern California Association of Governments and the Southern California Leadership Council are hosting this summit to help raise awareness, develop a broad coalition of stakeholders to help find solutions, identify specific actions needed to move people out of poverty and into jobs, assure Southern California's future prosperity for our economy and residents, and outline ways for attendees to get involved.

AGENDA

8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION, NETWORKING & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:30 A.M. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
  • Hon. Carl Morehouse, SCAG President, City of San Buenaventura
  • Governor Gray Davis (Ret.), 37th Governor of the State of California

9:50 A.M. OPENING KEYNOTE
  • Connie Rice, Co-Founder & Co-Director, Advancement Project

10:15 A.M. POVERTY IN FOCUS: ADDRESSING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA’S GROWING CRISIS
  • Stibring statistics were revealed at the 2013 Southern California Economic Recovery & Job Creation Summit regarding the drastic increase in the poverty rate in the SCAG region. Hear from experts in the field on poverty as it relates to workforce and labor markets, as well as challenges and opportunities.
  • Economist: Dr. John Husing, Chief Economist, inland Empire Economic Partnership
  • Moderator: Paul Gronke, President & CEO, Inland Empire Economic Partnership
  • Father Michael Barry, President & Chairman of the Board, Mary’s Mercy Center
  • Lance Trigg, Chief Executive Officer, Operation HOPE, Los Angeles
  • Tanuha Tharash-Nituk, Executive Director, West Angeles Community Development Corporation
  • Frank Taitaico, Jr., President & CEO, Goodwill of Orange County

11:15 A.M. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY 2014: PINPOINTING THE REGION'S GROWTH INDUSTRIES
  • Economic opportunity begins with knowing which sectors of the economy are ripe for growth. After a presentation on the economic cluster work from SCAG and the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAECD), hear from business leaders representing the region's top industries discuss opportunities for growth and how it relates to poverty.
  • Economist: Dr. Christine Cooper, Vice President of Economic & Policy Analysis, LAEDC
  • Moderator: Bill Allen, President & CEO, LAEDC
  • Antonio Manzana, Vice President, Office of Corporate Responsibility, Global Philanthropy
  • JPMorgan Chase & Co.
  • Darrell Huntley, Vice President, Satellite Development Center, Network & Space Systems, The Boeing Company
  • B.J. Patterson, CEO, President & Founder, Pacific Mountain Logistics

12:15 P.M. LUNCH

12:30 P.M. WORKING LUNCH – FROM POVERTY TO PROSPERITY: INCREASING PATHWAYS TO JOBS & OPPORTUNITY
  • With clear linkages between educational attainment, job opportunities, and income, more needs to be done to ensure future generations of Southern Californians have access to quality education and jobs. Hear from experts on workforce development regarding education and training tools that provide pathways out of poverty.
  • Economist: Dr. Wallace Walrod, Chief Economic Advisor, Orange County Business Council
  • Moderator: George Aria, Co-Chair, Southern California Leadership Council
  • Mike Gall, President & CEO, Kelly Space & Technology, Inc.
  • Leticia Cortez-Alcalo, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Instruction & Learning Support Branch, California Department of Education
  • Maria Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
  • Bret Lorne, Chief Operating Officer, Southern California Gas Company

1:30 P.M. ADVANCING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S BATTLE PLAN FOR VICTORY
  • More needs to be done to address the poverty, jobs, and economic development challenges facing the SCAG region. Hear from experts about proven programs and possible solutions in the areas of Poverty/Civic Engagement, Policy, Workforce Development/Education, and Regional Economic Development that could be utilized to address poverty in Southern California.
  • Moderator: Conan Nolte, Chief Political Reporter & Anchor of “News Conference,” NBC4 Southern California
  • Nathan Rollins, President & CEO, Los Angeles Urban League
  • Ralph Cardova, Jr., County Executive Officer, County of Imperial
  • Van Tam-Gualvan, Chief Counselor of Workforce & Economic Development, California Community Colleges
  • Kim Zeuli, Senior Vice President, Research & Advisory Practice, Initiative for a Competitive Inner City

2:45 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS, WRAP-UP & NEXT STEPS
  • Hasan Ikhrato, Executive Director, SCAG

3:00 P.M. SUMMIT ADJOURNMENT