

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## DALLAS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ASSESSMENT

The Dallas Economic Opportunity Assessment is the first comprehensive analysis of economic opportunity for the county produced by Communities Foundation of Texas. We offer this resource to our partners as an aid in understanding the underlying factors that threaten economic prosperity in the Dallas area. We are excited to work with you on how to use the data to identify new areas of focus or scale up smaller but successful programs.

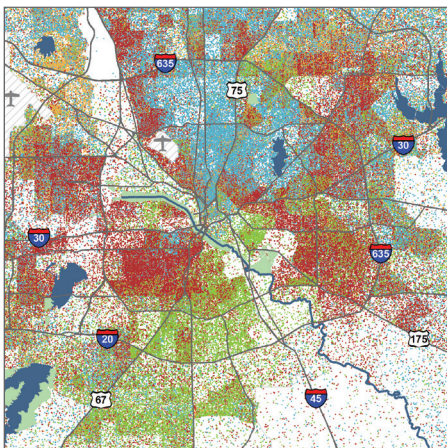
**The connections between geographic segregation and lack of economic opportunities are clear.**

Dallas County is growing and changing. Our rapidly expanding population is one of our greatest assets, providing a relatively young and diverse workforce that can drive economic growth in Dallas for years to come.

While we have many resources as a region, we also face many obstacles that limit the upward mobility of our residents. Dallas County has high levels of geographic segregation by race-ethnicity, income, educational attainment and wealth. What this means for low-to-moderate income Dallas residents – and for people of color, who are disproportionately represented in that category – is that where they live profoundly influences their access to opportunity. Because access to quality schools, health care, good paying jobs and safe neighborhoods are increasingly interrelated, it is more and more difficult for people to overcome barriers to opportunity on their own.

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2015 American Community Survey<sup>30</sup>

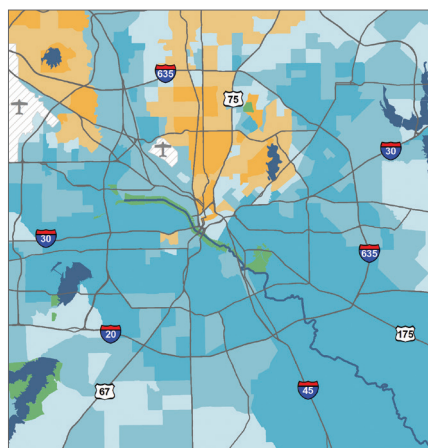
### Population Density by Race and Ethnicity



1 DOT = 10 PERSONS

- BLACK
- HISPANIC
- WHITE
- OTHER

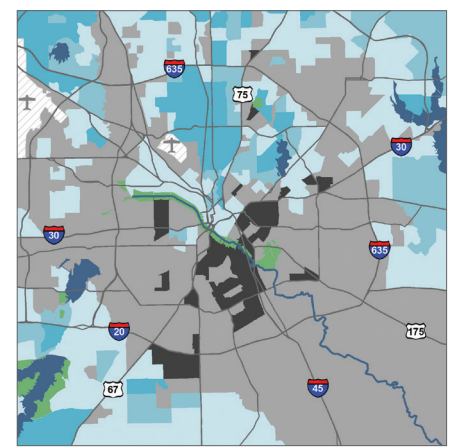
### Share of Adults with a College Degree



PERCENT OF ADULTS AGES 25+ WITH AN ASSOCIATES DEGREE OR HIGHER LEVEL OF EDUCATION

- Less than 20%
- 20% to 39.9%
- 40% to 59.9%
- 60% to 79.9%
- 80% or more

### Median Household Income



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,000
- \$100,000 or more

## We have work to do

Texas' prevailing economic narrative has been that if you get a job and work hard, everything else will be fine. And while Dallas has taken some major steps in reducing inequalities that have resulted from racial segregation, there are still some major disparities at play. The so-called "Texas Miracle" seems to only be a "miracle" for certain people in Texas, while others continue to be left behind.

### Key numbers from the Assessment

- From 1999 to 2015, median household income in Dallas County declined by 16 percent, and 63 percent of new jobs over the last decade have been added in jobs with median wages below \$50,000.
- The average Black worker earns 54 cents for every dollar earned by a White worker in Dallas County. The average Hispanic worker earns 58 cents for every dollar earned by a White worker in Dallas County.
- Only 16.5 percent of 8th grade students in Dallas County's 2006 class graduated from a Texas college or university with a degree or credential by 2017. In 86 percent of campuses in Dallas County, more than half of the students are economically disadvantaged.

## Median Household Income is Declining Rapidly in Dallas County

Since 1999, the state of Texas has seen a decline in real median household income by two percent. Dallas County's real median household income has fallen much faster, falling 16 percent in the same time period.<sup>23</sup>

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2015 American Community Survey<sup>24</sup>

## People of color are Dallas' present and future

People of color are integral to the current and future economic stability and prosperity of Dallas. By 2050, 88 percent of Dallas County's projected 3.3 million residents will be people of color, and children of color already represent 83 percent of all young people in Dallas County.

But people of color face persistent barriers to economic opportunity in Dallas with big disparities in education, employment, income, health outcomes and opportunities. Given that Dallas' population growth is being driven by people of color, their opportunities for economic security will directly impact economic security for the region.

*For a deeper look at the numbers, read the full [Dallas Economic Opportunity Assessment](#).*

*The assessment was produced by [Communities Foundation of Texas \(CFT\)](#). Increasing financial stability of working families is one of the key focus areas of CFT's community impact funds. CFT professionally manages 1,000 charitable funds for families, companies, foundations and nonprofits and has awarded more than \$1.7 billion in grants since its founding in 1953.*

*The Center for Public Policy Priorities conducted the data analyses and authored the report. CPPP believes in a Texas that offers everyone the chance to compete and succeed in life. We envision a Texas where everyone is healthy, well-educated, and financially secure. We dare Texas to be the best state for hard-working people and their families.*

