



## IMPACT CA- Poverty Summit, September 15, 2016 Survey Summary

### Overview

- Poverty summit held at Columbus Public Health and featured a mix of panel discussion and audience participation across themes of secure, affordable housing; reentry, restored citizens and toxic stress, engaging youth.
- Responses gathered from audience members via paper surveys and text polling to Poll Everywhere, at intervals of the summit.
- Paper surveys scanned, Poll Everywhere data exported to Microsoft Excel and sent to CRP following summit.

### Demographics

- A majority of respondents represented the not-for-profit sector (56%) followed by the public sector (32%).

### Secure, Affordable Housing

- When describing affordable housing, comments such as “insufficient” or “unsafe and not plentiful” were found in equal measure to comments referring to income levels and a contributor to healthy communities (“An opportunity for a healthy family and friends”, “clean, modern, and accessible”). At least 2 also found it to be synonymous with public housing projects (“public”, “waitlist”).
- When asked to rank the greatest threat to affordable housing in Columbus, wages and subsidies not keeping pace with increasing rent was identified as the greatest concern amongst respondents.
  - 62.5% rated this as the greatest threat to affordable housing.
- When asked about strategies and policies to advance affordable, secure housing:
  - Increased housing inspection and code enforcement activity rose to the top of the list. 61% viewed this action as “essential”, and a further 31% rated it a “high priority”.
  - A slightly smaller percentage also felt strongly about Inclusionary Zoning. 52% viewed this act of policy as “Essential” and 33% viewed it as a “high priority”.
  - While pluralities viewed Rent Controlled Units and Support for new and existing neighborhood associations as “Essential” (49% and 42%, respectively), several others rated these as “High” (29% and 25%, respectively) or “Medium Priorities” (18% and 27%, respectively).
- Reflections
  - The gap between housing costs and wages is gaining attention in Columbus. A *Dispatch* article published 3 days after the Poverty Summit estimated 54,000 people are in need



of affordable housing in Columbus<sup>1</sup>, and recent American Community Survey estimates found over 30% of housing units in Franklin County have costs exceeding 30% of occupants' income<sup>2</sup>. Responses saying affordable housing is in short supply and further support for Inclusionary Zoning then, have a basis.

### **Reentry, Restored Citizens**

- When asked to rank the greatest barriers to success for Restored Citizens:
  - Respondents felt strongly that adequate housing is a barrier to success
    - 29% rated this as the highest priority to address; average score was 2.6 (1 being the greatest barrier, 5 being the lowest).
  - Job training also resonated strongly
    - 26% rated this as the highest priority to address, with a slightly lower average score of 2.55.
  - Free responses (of which there were 16) tended toward employment in general, with barriers such as “high wage jobs”, “fair opportunity” and “livable wage” being listed.
- When asked about how the community can support social enterprises, particularly ones that employ restored citizens:
  - “Involvement in skills and workforce development” was the only metric a majority viewed as “essential” (57%).
  - “Health and wellness development” also rated strongly, with essential and high priority both garnering 43%.
  - Elsewhere, 40% viewed public support for government contracts as essential (31% high priority, 23% medium priority), 43% viewed expanding incentives to hire as essential (45% high priority) and 42% viewed connecting enterprise to financial and wellness professionals as essential (44% high priority).

### **Toxic Stress and Engaging Youth**

- Most respondents had a degree of familiarity with the term “toxic stress” (40% were “extremely familiar” and 26% “moderately familiar”; only 6% were “not at all familiar”), and a majority (71%) felt it was a “serious” issue among youth in Columbus.
- When asked about outlets to engage youth in Columbus:
  - Family and parental engagement elicited the strongest response, with 84% rating this as “Essential”.
  - Solid majorities also rated mental health engagement and workforce development highly, with 70% and 65% viewing these as “Essential” to engaging youth, respectively.
  - Pluralities further rated tutoring, health and wellness development and creative and artistic development as “Essential” (48%, 49% and 44%), these outlets garnered more “High” and “Medium Priority” responses than others.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/home\\_and\\_garden/2016/09/18/01-on-the-house-rising-rents-increase-need-for-affordable-housing-in-central-ohio.html](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/home_and_garden/2016/09/18/01-on-the-house-rising-rents-increase-need-for-affordable-housing-in-central-ohio.html)

<sup>2</sup> Table B25106, American Community Survey 2015 1-year Estimates