

THE STATE OF ECONOMIC EQUITY IN DETROIT

Detroit Future City's (DFC) report, "The State of Economic Equity in Detroit," illustrates the deep disparities that persist in Detroit and provides recommendations that lay out a path to an economically equitable Detroit, in which **all Detroiters are meeting their unique needs, prospering, and fully and fairly participating in all aspects of economic life within a thriving city and region.**

The future of Detroit must benefit all Detroiters and unleash the economic promise and well-being of its residents.

In order to do this, we must:

Improve educational outcomes at all levels.

Increase the number and share of middle-wage jobs.

Increase capital access for minority-owned small businesses.

Improve access to affordable quality health care.

Grow and strengthen middle-class neighborhoods.

Increase access to quality affordable housing.

This report is the result of a yearlong planning process that engaged nearly 500 community stakeholders. "The State of Economic Equity" presents 22 economic equity indicators through the lens of geographic and racial/ethnic equity. Our goal is to inform and engage decision-makers, community organizations, and others so collectively we can identify and address the systemic structures that perpetuate economic inequity in Detroit and our region, and work to eliminate them.

The logo for Detroit Future City, featuring the words "DETROIT", "FUTURE", and "CITY" stacked vertically in a bold, sans-serif font, with a vertical line to the right of the text.

DETROIT
FUTURE
CITY

THE STATE OF ECONOMIC EQUITY
IN DETROIT
MAY 2021

SHED 21

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INCOME & WEALTH BUILDING

Middle class remains out of reach for many and inequities persist.



Median income in Detroit is half that of the region.



Median income increased **60%** for white Detroiters compared to **8%** for African-American Detroiters.

Tax filers in the region claimed **3x** interest, dividends, and capital gains per tax return compared with Detroiters.

ACCESS TO QUALITY EMPLOYMENT

Employment remains out of reach for many African-American Detroiters.



The unemployment rate for African Americans is **1.5 times** that of white people.



\$17.58
Median wages **without** a bachelor's degree



\$32.68
Median wages **with** a bachelor's degree

BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Small businesses need more access to capital.



Among the top 100 cities, Detroit ranks **99th** in entrepreneurship rate.



In 2018, Detroit made up about **9%** of the region's small businesses,

but accounted for only **6%** of the value of the region's small business loans.



EDUCATION

The Michigan educational system is not adequately preparing all students for the workforce.



In Detroit, only **17%** of residents have a bachelor's degree or higher.



Only **17%** of Detroit's third-graders are proficient in English language arts, compared to **43%** across the region.

HEALTH

Life expectancy in Detroit is lower than surrounding areas.



Someone living in Detroit has a life expectancy of **5 years** less than someone in the region.



Only **72%** of foreign-born residents who have not yet become citizens have health insurance, compared to **92%** for the city as a whole.

NEIGHBORHOODS & HOUSING

Detroit's neighborhoods must be strengthened.



Only **5%** of Detroit's residents live in a middle-class neighborhood, compared to **59%** in the region.



62% renters are housing cost-burdened.

Homeownership rates:
47% African Americans
55% White people
53% Hispanics