

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Economic Mobility in Kansas City



Upward Mobility Initiative

The Goal of the Upward Mobility Initiative

Help communities advance upward mobility and racial equity, especially for residents excluded from prosperity.





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UPWARD MOBILITY FRAMEWORK

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The Urban Institute's evidence-based foundation for community efforts to expand prosperity and narrow racial inequities.

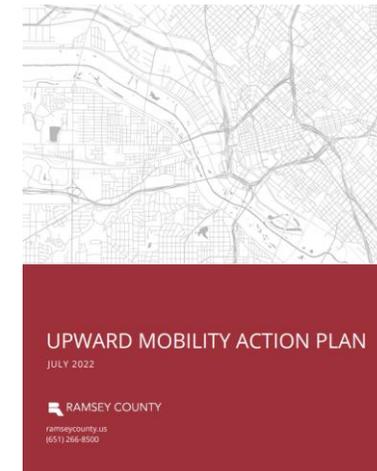
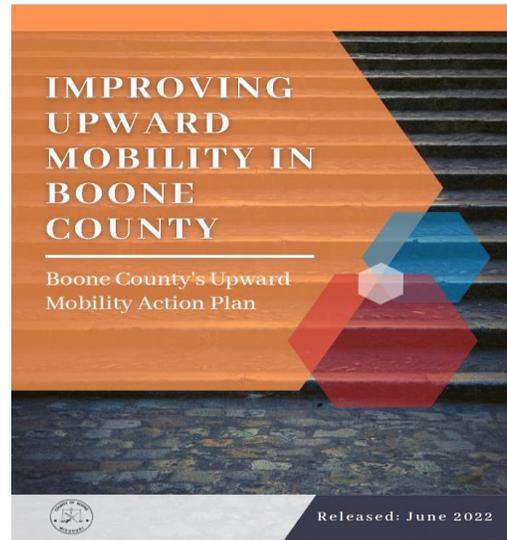
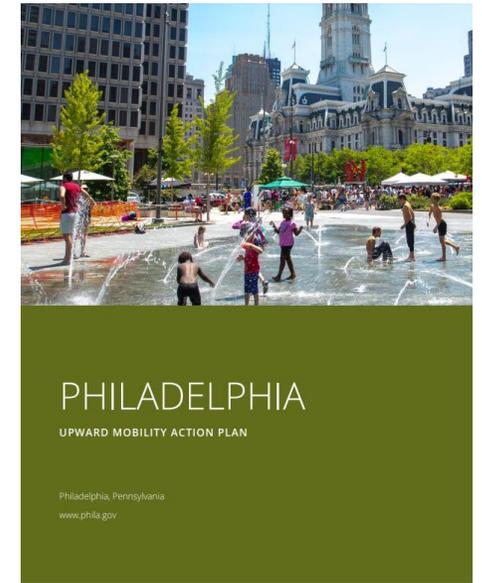
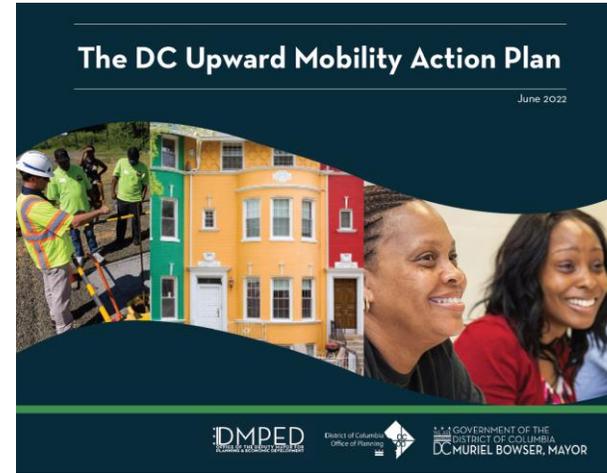
PILLARS



PREDICTORS



Upward Mobility Framework Adoption To Date



Upward Mobility Challenge

To achieve economic parity along Kansas City's Prospect Corridor

Prosperity on Prospect:

Moving Incomes from \$14,000 to \$60,000



Upward Mobility Challenge

**Poverty Rate in 64127 and 64128 is
double the rate in Kansas City**



Upward Mobility Challenge

- Do you feel like you can reach your full economic potential?
- Working at full earning potential
- Do you feel like you can reach your full earning potential in your current neighborhood?
- Access to quality public education
- Access to affordable healthy housing
- Access to quality job/employment in your community



A Few Takeaways from the Data Walk

■ Housing Challenges and Racial Disparities

- KC faces deficits in extreme and very-low income housing, with Black families disproportionately impacted. Addressing this requires gathering more granular geographic data on housing types, conditions, and affordability to inform a more equitable housing policy agenda.

■ Education Gaps and Trust

- Transportation barriers, distrust in preschool systems, and the rise of charter schools disrupt access to stable education and community cohesion. Collecting data on post-secondary outcomes, preschool availability, and transportation challenges can help design interventions that stabilize education.

■ Employment Barriers and Wage Inequities

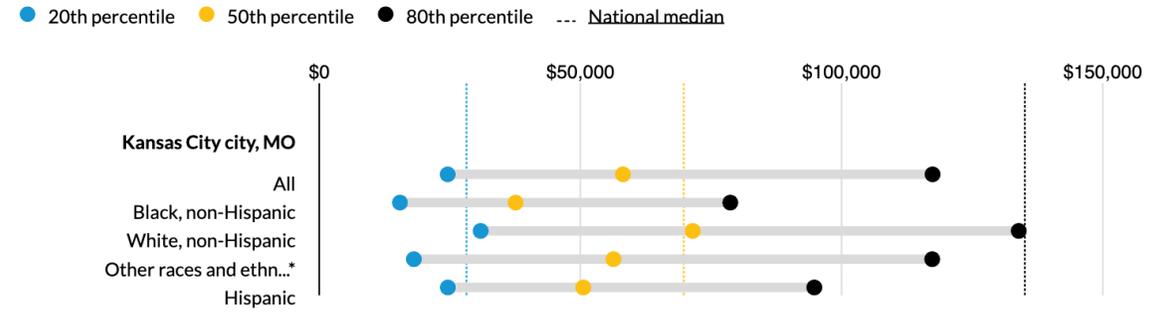
- A need for more robust public transit, system racism, and limited access to living-wage jobs hinder mobility. Breaking down job categories and analyzing wage disparities within sectors will provide a clearer picture about which industries to target for more equitable employment opportunities.

Key Indicators: Income

Lack of income directly influences a household's ability to accrue debt and incur arrearages – further ensnaring people in a trap of poverty.

Opportunities for income

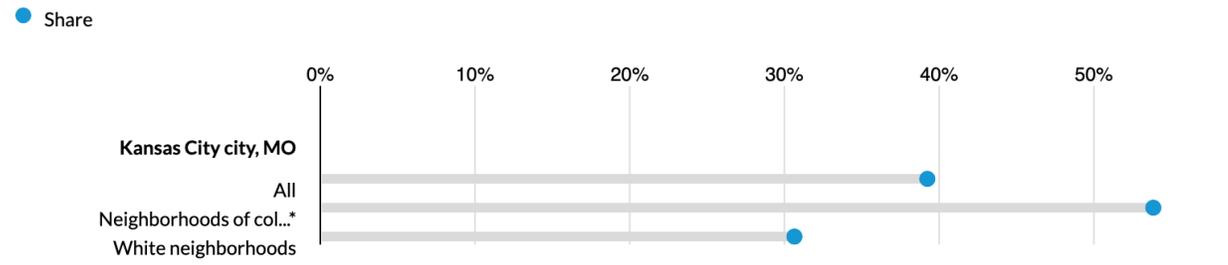
Household income at 20th, 50th, and 80th percentiles



*Other races and ethnicities

Financial security

Share of adults with debt in collections



*Neighborhoods of color

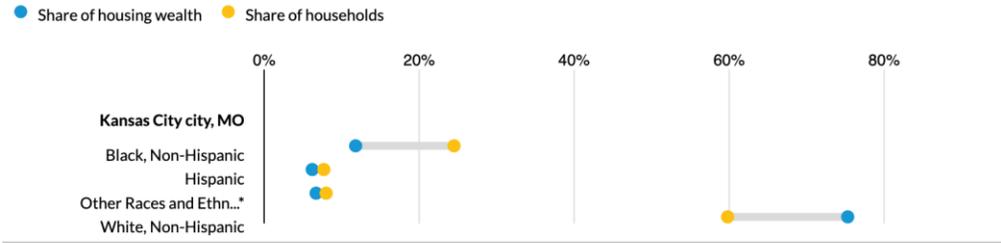


Key Indicators: Poverty and Wealth-Building Opportunity

Without safe and affordable housing, the option to live near a household's most needed amenities and ownership opportunities will remain out of reach.

Wealth-building opportunities

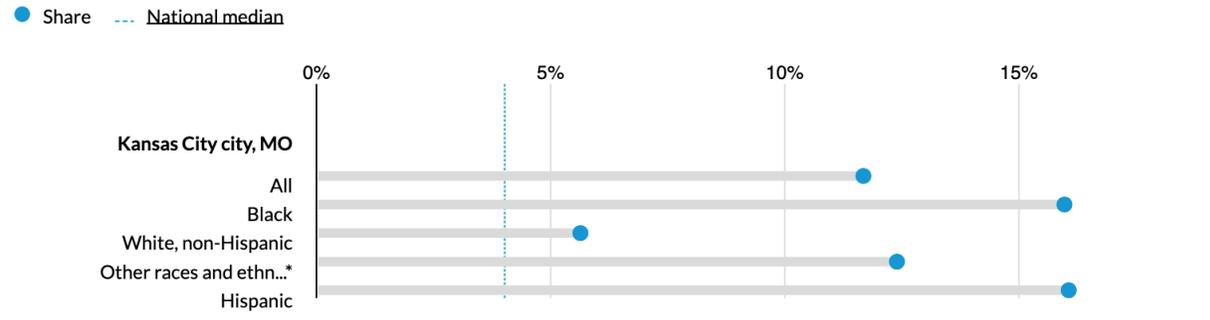
Ratio of the share of total home values owned by a racial or ethnic group to the share of households of the same group



*Other Races and Ethnicities

Economic inclusion

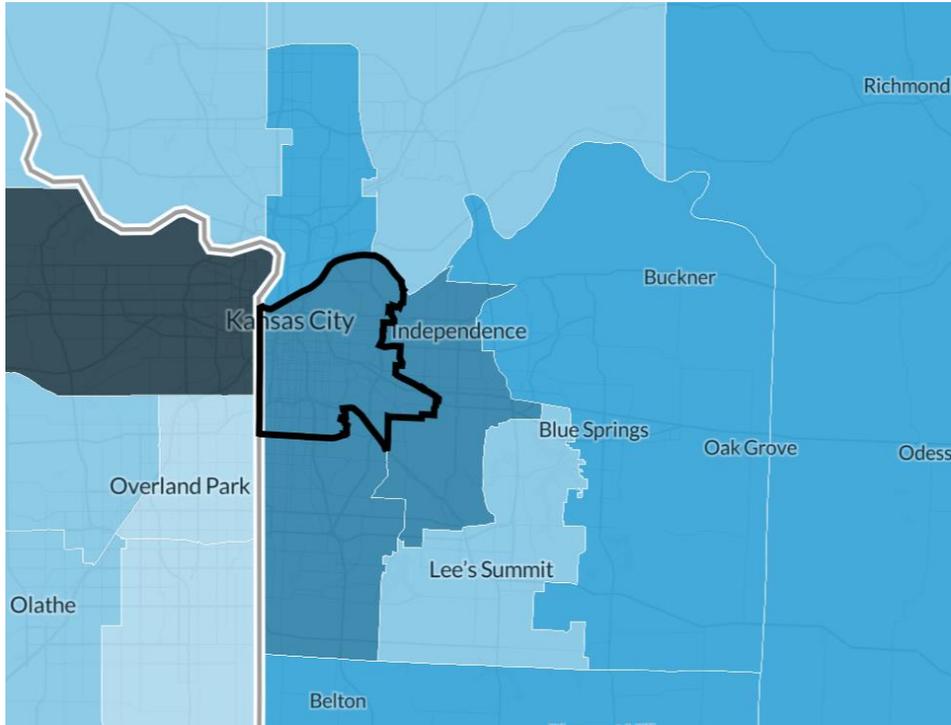
Share of people experiencing poverty who live in high-poverty neighborhoods



*Other races and ethnicities



Kansas City Central has a greater % of residents living with delinquent debt than surrounding areas



Jackson County--Kansas City (Central)

43%

Residents with delinquent debt

Jackson County (South Central)

20%

Residents with delinquent debt

Jackson County--Kansas City (South)

41%

Residents with delinquent debt

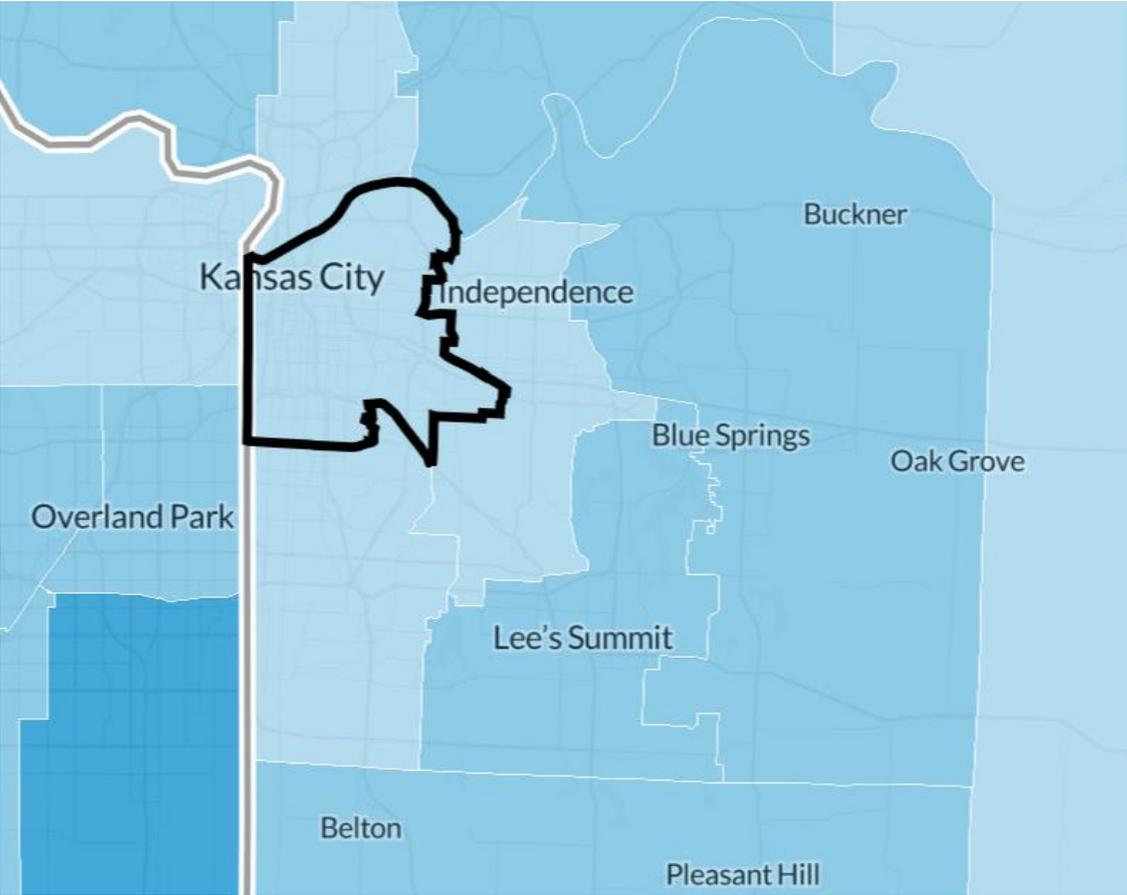
Jackson County (North Central)

37%

Residents with delinquent debt



In August 2021, the Median Net Worth of residents in Central KC was estimated to be just over \$22,000, less than half that of surrounding areas.



Jackson County--Kansas City (Central)

\$22,419
Median net worth (estimated)

Jackson County--Kansas City (South)

\$51,356
Median net worth (estimated)

Jackson County (North Central)

\$58,107
Median net worth (estimated)

Jackson County (South Central)

\$215,965
Median net worth (estimated)

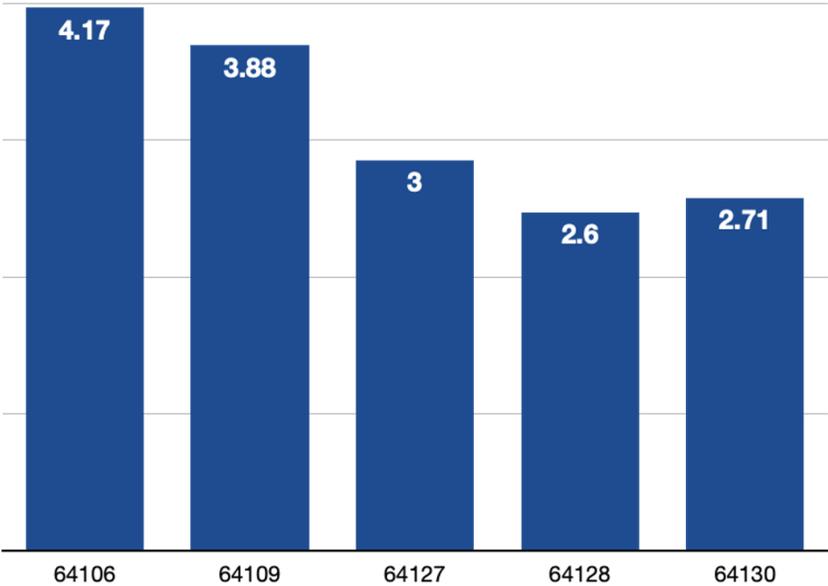
Kansas City (North Central), Gladstone City & North Kansas City

\$111,791
Median net worth (estimated)

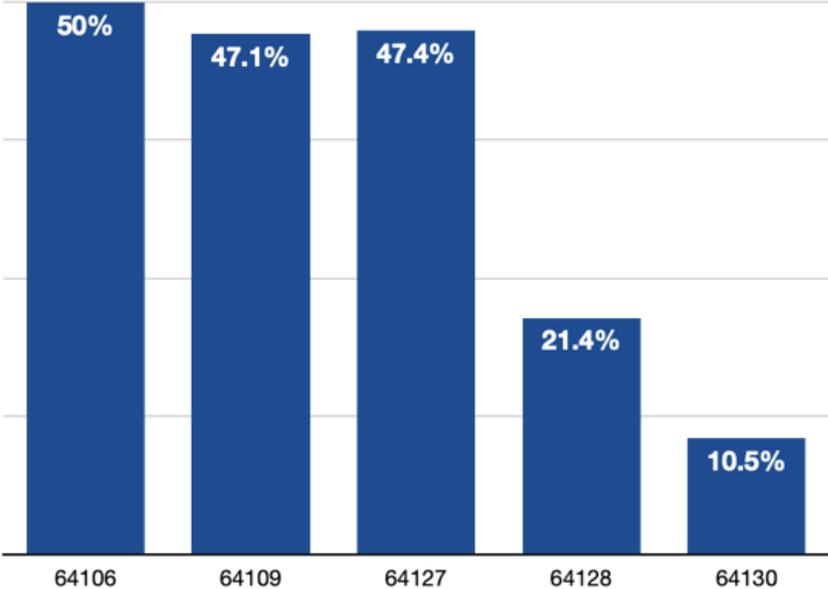
Key Indicators: Survey Results of Residents

Diverse opinions across Third District neighborhoods, though notable pattern of residents near downtown shared more favorable prospects for their future, including access to jobs, while those living deeper in the 3rd were more skeptical.

Ability to access quality jobs in your community by zip code | Average score, 1-5



Vis 4: Belief that you're achieving full earning potential from work, disaggregated by zip code.



Identified Three Initial Workstreams

With technical assistance support from the Urban Institute

1. Using data to build a fuller picture about local mobility conditions

- Build on this year's progress by addressing data gaps, partner with City Depts. to leverage city data, and community engagement with residents about which data resonate most, illustrating their current experiences and dreams of the future.

2. Building a roundtable of partners committed to upward mobility

- Develop a stakeholder engagement approach to build the coalition and create a plan for how to assess the coalition's strengths and work moving forward

3. Enacting systems change through a shared agenda

- Collaborate with partners and leverage data to iteratively develop a shared agenda for upward mobility that centers the most impacted residents



Explanation of the Resolution

1. Commitment to Economic Mobility through Funding + Focus
2. Technical Assistance through Urban Institute
3. Collaborative Approach and External Resource Building
4. Prospectus Plan
5. Pilot and Scale
6. Year One Pilot
7. Year Two Scale and Expand



Discussion

