

# Poverty and Progress: The Next Steps

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Demographics of Poverty and Progress after the Recession  
USC Price School and the Southern California Assn. of Governments

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# Overview

- Where are we now?
- What has been accomplished?
- What are our next steps?



# Where Are We Now?

- Changes
  - Poverty has fallen by 30% since 1960
    - For African-Americans, the poverty rate has fallen by more than 50%
- Levels
  - More Americans are in poverty today than in 1960
  - Immigrants have become focus
  - Extreme poverty is up 4% in the last 15 years
  - California and Los Angeles are a ground zero



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  - Improved food and nutrition for families with children
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- Important insight: The changing US economy increasingly disadvantaged less-skilled workers.



# Where To Go?

- Innovating to End Urban Poverty conference
  - <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/endpoverty/>
  - 2-day conference with the goal of finding solutions to the urban poverty problem
  - Co-sponsored with the Price Center for Social Innovation
  - Featured speakers
    - Harry Holzer, Alan Berube, Marge Turner, Bobbi Wolfe, Ed Olsen
    - Angela Blanchard, Carla Javits, Roy Nash, Zachary Hoover, Erika Poethig, Ron Sims, Phil Tegeler
    - Sheldon Danziger, Robert Greenstein, Terri Ludwig, Patrick McCarthy
    - Manuel Pastor, Daphna Oyserman, LaVonna Lewis, Fran Kaufman



# Recommendations: The Current Generation

- Job training and employment
  - Expand high quality career and technical education
  - Expand sectoral training and career pathway programs
  - Increase medical extenders
  - Improve job training for working people
  - Strengthen transitional jobs programs



# Recommendations: Tomorrow's Generation

- Early learning
  - Help parents be better educators during first 5
  - Improve early childhood education
  - Pilot a health care program for young children
  - Reinvest in YouthBuild



# Final Thoughts

- “The successful people are those that learn how to take advantage of the world as it is.”
  - Bill Clinton, former US President, NAHREP conference, October 2012



# For More Information

- Bedrosian Center
  - <http://bedrosian.usc.edu/>
- Innovating to End Urban Poverty Conference
  - <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/endpoverty/>
- My contact information
  - [bostic@usc.edu](mailto:bostic@usc.edu)