What’s Most Important

Key Trends from the 2020 Prosperity Now Scorecard

January 29, 2020
The Prosperity Now mission is to ensure everyone in our country has a clear path to financial stability, wealth and prosperity.
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Housekeeping

- The webinar is being **recorded** and will be available online.

- **Ask a question** or make a comment at any time by typing it into text box of GoToWebinar Control Panel.

- If you experience any technical issues, email gotomeeting@prosperitynow.org.

- Ask questions and send comments through **Twitter** using #ProsperityNowScorecard.
Poll Question #1

How have you used Scorecard data in the past? (select all that apply)

- Advocacy or policymaker education
- Tell a story about your work or community
- Fundraising (e.g. used data in grant proposals)
- To better understand your clients
- Communicate about racial economic inequality
- I haven't used Scorecard data in the past

(Use the poll tool on your screen to record your answer.)
2020 Scorecard: State and Local Data, Policy and Outcome Measures

Lebaron Sims, Jr.
Senior Research Manager
75 Outcome Measures
26 Disaggregated by Race, 49 Overall
Disaggregated data by disability status, gender, and income
Trend data across 44 data measures

28 Policy Measures

- Financial Assets & Income
- Businesses & Jobs
- Homeownership & Housing
- Health Care
- Education
Follow along at:
scorecard.prosperitynow.org
**Comparison Reports**

**COMPARE POLICIES**

**How Does Alabama Compare?**

The Scorecard includes 53 policies organized into 36 groups. This report compares policy adoption across states in 2017. A ✔ indicates the state has adopted the policy; an ✗ indicates the state has not. Policy adoption is assessed on policies enacted during calendar year 2017.

### FINANCIAL ASSETS & INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>AL</th>
<th>FL</th>
<th>GA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eliminated TANF asset test?</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliminated SNAP asset test?</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliminated LIHEAP asset test?</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOMEOWNERSHIP & HOUSING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>AL</th>
<th>FL</th>
<th>GA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Downpayment assistance to first-time homebuyers?</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct lending programs to first-time homebuyers?</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded homeownership counseling?</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMPARE OUTCOMES**

**How Does Louisiana's 1st District Compare?**

The Scorecard is a comprehensive portrait of the financial health and well-being of U.S. households, and equips advocates, policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders with the tools and data necessary to support their programmatic and policy initiatives. This report compares the relative outcome performance of up to six locations to that of the United States.

**BUSINESSES & JOBS**

**Unemployment Rate**

Annual average unemployment rate of the civilian labor force:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 1, Louisiana</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 5, Alabama</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2, Hawaii</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2, New York</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3, Texas</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HEALTH CARE**

**Uninsured Rate**

Percentage of the non-elderly population (under 65) without health insurance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 1, Louisiana</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 5, Alabama</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2, Hawaii</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2, New York</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3, Texas</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main Findings

What's Most Important
Stories from the Prosperity Now Community

OVERVIEW

The people of the United States have persevered in the face of a hostile political and economic environment over the past three years. The affirmative decisions to restrict access to health care, particularly for women; to no longer provide fair housing protections to renters, particularly Black renters; and to cut SNAP benefits for more than 3 million men, women, and children—among many other policy and administrative actions—have had overlapping and cascading effects on the economic well-being of many U.S. households. In response, there has been strong collective action in communities across the country regarding how to improve our social and legislative environments.

By highlighting national, state, and local data trends in outcomes and state policy responses, the 2020 Prosperity Now Scorecard reveals prospective steps we can take to improve the climate of our country. While some national economic indicators reflect the slow, consistent recovery that has marked the past 8 years—surging stock market values, unemployment rates below 4%, foreclosure rates below 1%, and household poverty rates returning to their pre-recession levels—there remains significant opportunity for legislators and policy advocates to address the drivers of economic inequality, and to develop a more comprehensive distribution of the recovery’s benefits among all U.S. residents.
Vulnerability in the Face of Economic Uncertainty

Key Findings from the 2019 Prosperity Now Scorecard

Headlines at the beginning of 2019 touted America’s booming economy, but the government’s的做法 demonstrated that narrative is from the day-to-day financial lives of most Americans back to the labor market and official unemployment numbers to judge the strength of the economy when people with federal or federally-backed jobs—most visible jobs with benefits—lost to get for reasons other than rising and and needed to return to college because they pay bills and turn to food banks to put food on the table. One indication is that, their financial situation is not enough to put these households in financial risk. This level of financial vulnerability is all too common in the United States, particularly for people of color who were by and large left out of the economic recovery from the last recession. The data from the 2019 Prosperity Now Scorecard shows that there are millions of families either struggling to make ends meet or just one emergency away from a financial disaster.

The persistent problems of measuring economic growth provide an inaccurate analysis of how families are actually faring in today’s economy, often omitting key data sets that have the most tangible implications for financial well-being. Drawing from a broad set of indicators across issues such as job quality, savings, credit, education and health, the 2019 Prosperity Now Scorecard reveals a more complete picture of financial stability at the national, state and local levels. The 2019 Scorecard finds that:

- Forty percent of American households lack a basic level of savings. These "liquid asset" households don’t have enough savings to make ends meet at the poverty level for three months if their income was interrupted.
- 12% of American households fell behind on their bills. This includes roughly one of Black households, households with volatile incomes, and households with a disability.
- Almost half (48%) of Americans with credit score are below prime, but nearly 25% of households did not have mainstream credit in the past 12 months and are likely without access to it.

Accounting for Race
A New Way to Compare the Financial Health of Households in States

About the Scorecard
The Prosperity Now Scorecard is a resource for data on racial wealth, racial economic inequality and race and economic prosperity for the country on a path to prosperity.

The scorecard ranks states on 10 measures across five key indicators of financial stability:

- Economic and Jobs
- Income and Employment
- Wealth and Savings
- Health and Food Security
- Education and Housing

To read out a comparison analysis of racial disparity on economic outcomes and economic prosperity, please visit 2019 Scorecard.

To see how your state ranks on one health and racial disparity, as well the full set of outcomes and policies visit

scorecard.prosperitynow.org

Why Account for Racial Disparity?
As Prosperity Now has increasingly focused on the racial wealth divide over the past several years, we are more consistently highlighting the role that racial economic inequality has on a household’s ability to achieve prosperity. Changes to the Scorecard state rankings demonstrate more clearly than ever the extent to which racial inequities in family and resident outcomes drag down a state’s overall performance.

It is no coincidence that people of color perform worse than White people in every measurable metric: median net worth and households with zero net worth; uninsured and underinsured households; unemployment and business ownership; homeownership and cost-burdened households; uninsured and forgoing doctor visits due to
More and more workplace discrimination cases are being closed before they’re even recorded.

Income inequality in America is the highest it’s been since Census Bureau started tracking it, data shows.

In the midst of the nation’s longest economic expansion, the separation between rich and poor is at a five-decade high.
# 2020 Scorecard Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Five</th>
<th>Bottom Five</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Vermont</td>
<td>47. District of Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Hawaii (tie)</td>
<td>49. Louisiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Washington (tie)</td>
<td>50. South Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Utah</td>
<td>51. Mississippi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The people of the United States have persevered in the face of a hostile political and economic environment over the past three years. The affirmative decisions to restrict access to health care, particularly for women, to no longer provide fair housing protections to renters, particularly Black renters, and to cut SNAP benefits for more than 3 million men, women, and children—among many other policy and administrative actions—have fed up and cascading effects on the economic well-being of many U.S. households. In response, there has been strong collective action in communities across the country regarding how to improve our social and legislative environments.

By highlighting national, state, and local data trends in outcomes and state policy responses, the 2020 Prosperity Now Scorecard reveals prospective steps we can take to improve the climate of our country. While some national economic indicators reflect the slow, consistent recovery that has marked the past 8 years—surging stock market values, unemployment rates below 4%, foreclosure rates below 1%, and household poverty rates returning to their pre-recession levels—there remains significant opportunity for legislators and policy advocates to address the drivers of economic inequality, and to develop a more comprehensive distribution of the recovery’s benefits among all U.S. residents.

So, how do we begin to distribute the benefits of the recovery more evenly amongst all households? We can start by addressing the income inequality that has increased over the past few years, decreasing the uninsured rates that remain among both adults and children, and stabilizing housing costs which have seen an increase at a rate seven times greater than average household incomes. Additionally, given that the wealth of the median household has risen over the past four years, we must hold elected officials accountable to ensure that this growth is also distributed in a manner that addresses historical racial wealth inequality.

The bright side is that we can begin to strengthen our economy through policy change, new collective action. We can close the divide between the wealthiest Americans and the average U.S. household by combating the adverse racial narratives and biases that underlie our socioeconomic policies. Additionally, we can work together to reverse current growth trends that have plagued multiple generations of individuals in our country while re-establishing—and bolstering—equal protections for historically targeted groups. Lastly, we can reinforce universal safety net programs.

Because we recognize that the aforementioned priorities affect countless U.S. residents, we constructed this report to amplify the stories of the people who these revised policies should be designed to help. These are people who, through circumstances beyond their control, have found themselves on the wrong side of the trends we hear about in the monthly unemployment or foreclosure reports. People like:

- Martha Allen-Shahbaz, who perseveres daily to support her family despite being forced to take low-wage work after earning multiple college degrees.
- Devon Kennedy, who weathered unexpected health issues that subsequently caused him to incur thousands of dollars in property tax debt that almost caused him to lose his home.
- AJ Collette, who has overcome addiction and incarceration to become financially secure through his participation in a management externship and an emergency savings program.

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Median Household Net Worth

Median Net Worth (2016 dollars)

- 2013: $79,029
- 2014: $80,586
- 2015: $82,288
- 2016: $92,110

$92,110
NEARLY 4 IN 10 HOUSEHOLDS ARE LIQUID ASSET POOR IN THE US

DON’T HAVE ENOUGH SAVED TO COVER A POVERTY-LEVEL INCOME FOR 3 MONTHS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY
($3,168 for individual, $6,550 for family of four)

Source: Survey of Income and Program Participation

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Trends in Liquid Asset Poverty

Liquid Asset Poverty Rate

2013: 37.0%
2014: 40.0%
2015: 38.0%
2016: 36.9%

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The Racial Wealth Gap:
Median Net Worth

- **WHITE**: $141,825
- **BLACK**: $12,470
- **LATINO**: $20,479

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Liquid Asset Poverty Rates

- Black Households: 58.2%
- Latino Households: 58.1%
- White Households: 29.1%
- Households w/ Disability: 60.5%
Individual Development Accounts
10 States & D.C. Had Funding for IDAs in 2019

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Are better times ahead for Utah’s coal country?

Outside the Wasatch Front and southwestern Utah, many rural economies are struggling. This is especially true in Utah’s coal country — Carbon and Emery counties.

By A. Scott Anderson, Contributor | Sep 26, 2019, 8:00am MDT

One of every four residents in Utah’s San Juan County lives in poverty. In Morgan County, just one in 25 is impoverished.
Jobs Don’t Cover Cost of Living

1 in 5 JOBS IN THE US IS LOW WAGE
Martha’s Story
1 in 4 jobs in 14 states is low wage.
States With Underemployment Increases

- OR
- CO
- NE
- MN
- KY
- MS
Income Volatility

1 IN 5 HOUSEHOLDS HAVE SIGNIFICANT INCOME FLUCTUATIONS FROM MONTH TO MONTH
Predatory Small-Dollar Lending Protections

9 States Protect Consumers from Predatory Installment Loans

Map showing states with policies in blue: OR, SD, NY, PA, NC, AK.
Can California’s mini-CFPB pick up slack left by federal agency?

By Kate Berry  
Published January 10 2020, 3:27pm EST

More in Fintech regulations, State regulators, Financial regulations, Debt collection, Payday lending, Housing, Richard Cordray, Kathy Kraninger, CFPB, California

An effort by California to create a powerful state consumer protection bureau could have a significant impact on banks, debt collectors and other financial firms as Gov. Gavin Newsom seeks to fight against the Trump administration’s regulatory rollback.
Derrick’s Story
Cost-Burdened Households

- White HHs: 46.0%
- Black HHs: 56.7%
- Hispanic/Latino HHs: 55.3%
- HHs w/ Disability: 59.5%

Cost-Burdened Renters vs. Homeowners

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Protecting Homeownership
Pathways to Housing for All

Introduction

Whether renting or owning, housing is often the costliest expense a person has each month and has a substantial impact on financial security. Someone with excessively high housing costs is likely to struggle with financial hardships, like difficulties saving for an emergency, paying off student loans or even paying for basic living expenses. And while homeownership may not be right for everyone, under the right circumstances, owning a home has powerful wealth-building potential.

Unfortunately, many Americans are housing-cost burdened, which is defined as a household spending more than 30% of its income on housing. A varying number of people are also severely-cost burdened, which is when housing costs account for more than 50% of income. This is especially the case for low-income families and households of color that deal with a greater level of financial stress, as well as larger obstacles to building wealth.

A substantial wealth gap exists between White households compared to Black and Latino households and greater barriers to homeownership that communities of color face have helped, in part, to create and maintain this gap. Given this, finding ways to make housing more affordable and to increase access to homeownership is essential for the financial futures of these families and all the opportunities that come with greater stability.

In A Downturn of the Decade: State and Local Policies to End Racism in Housing Markets, Prosperity Now examines the interplay between homeownership and the racial wealth gap and how increasing access to homeownership for communities of color could reduce this divide. Solutions outlined in the report include increasing access to quality mortgage credit, protecting households of color from lending discrimination through enforcement of fair lending standards and the preservation of financially-focused agencies like the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and reforming the federal income tax code.

While all of these are important and could play a role in narrowing the racial wealth divide—indeed, pursuing all of these solutions would have a greater impact than adopting just one—this proposal is focused on further fleshing out the last piece, restructuring the tax code. It describes with more
Losing Ground in Health Care Access

Overall Uninsured

Uninsured Low-Income Children

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35 States Have Lost Ground on Health Care Access
HHs of Color in 46 States Have Lost Ground on Health Care Access
Losing Ground in Health Care Outcomes

Adults Reporting Poor or Fair Health Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>2017 (%)</th>
<th>2018 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Loss of Progress in Health Care

13.2% of households fell behind on bills in the past year

13.0% of adults skipped a necessary doctor visit due to cost
When you have peace of mind knowing that your bills are paid, knowing that you have relationships, health, and strength, then that's what's most important.

Derrick Kennedy
Detroit, Michigan

scorecard.prosperitynow.org
Questions?

Ask a question or make a comment by typing it into text box of the GoToWebinar Control Panel

#ProsperityNowScorecard
Prosperity Now Scorecard and Advocacy

Martha Wunderli
Executive Director, AAA Fair Credit Foundation (Utah)

Marquita Robertson
Executive Director, Collaborative of North Carolina

Vanna Cure
Senior Advocacy Manager
Poll Question #2

Have you used Scorecard data to advocate for policy or program change?

- Yes
- No

(Use the poll tool on your screen to record your answer.)
Poll Question #3

What kind of advocacy have you used the Scorecard data for?

- State
- Local
- Congressional

(Use the poll tool on your screen to record your answer.)
Grassroots Advocacy

Expanded financial literacy will boost policies aimed at helping working Maine families

For the third straight year, Oklahoma has dropped in the Prosperity Now Scorecard rankings. This year, we rank 43rd in the financial health and overall well-being of our residents – that’s down from 34th in 2016.

New economic rankings show Oklahoma falling further behind. Oklahomans have reason to be optimistic about Oklahoma this year. Unemployment is low and the state expects to have a budget surplus this year.

@ ProsperityNow
@OKPolicy
prosperitynow.org
Grassroots Advocacy

▪ Use Scorecard data to inform your coalition's policy priorities

▪ For client-serving organizations, couple Scorecard data with client feedback to examine disparities and brainstorm policy solutions
Direct Advocacy

- Educate lawmakers through face-to-face meetings
- Attend candidate forums or town hall meetings
- Email Scorecard data to legislative staff

PROSPERITY NOW

30.8% of Virginia families don’t have sufficient liquid assets to subsist at the poverty level for three months in the absence of income.

We need leaders who will commit to:
- Protecting consumers from predatory financial institutions and exorbitant lending fees that trap hard-working families into a cycle of debt.
- Addressing the financial vulnerability of families by supporting policies that boost short- and long-term savings opportunities for low-income families.
- Expanding access to affordable credit that will propel hard-working families into the credit mainstream and open doors to homeownership.
- Using the tax system to address America’s growing wealth divide, particularly for households of color.

(prosperitynow.org)

[State partner policy priority]
Don't forget - Thank your legislators for good rankings, improved outcome measures or recently adopted policies!
Scorecard and State Advocacy

AAA Fair Credit Foundation
A 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization located in Salt Lake City Utah has provided free financial counseling since 1997

Mission
To teach individuals and families how to manage their finances wisely to improve and sustain financial well-being.

Martha Wunderli
Executive Director, AAA Fair Credit Foundation (Utah)

- Debt Management Plans
- Financial Coaching
- Credit Counseling
- Workshops and classes
- Payday Loan alternative
- IDA and Opportunity Accounts
- Utah Saves
- HUD Housing Counseling
The Collaborative’s mission is to close the wealth gap in North Carolina. We:

❖ Collaborate
❖ Educate
❖ Advocate

We believe everyone deserves an equal opportunity to build wealth.

Marquita Robertson
Executive Director, Collaborative of North Carolina
Questions?

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Audience Q&A

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Director, Applied Research

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Next Steps and Close
Action Steps

✓ Visit scorecard.prosperitynow.org
✓ Sign up for a campaign
✓ Visit our events page
✓ Contact us for a Scorecard webinar or presentation: Scorecard@prosperitynow.org

Continue the Conversation on Twitter #ProsperityNowScorecard
Sign up to stay informed about the latest developments and opportunities to take action by joining one of our four federal policy campaigns.

**HOMEOWNERSHIP**
Homeownership is key to building wealth. Together, we will advocate for policies that reduce barriers to homeownership, and fight against discriminatory lending practices.

**CONSUMER PROTECTIONS**
Consumer protections create fairer, more transparent financial markets. Together, we will protect the mission and integrity of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to ensure consumers keep the safeguards they deserve.

**FINANCIAL SECURITY**
Financial security requires a strong safety net and opportunities to build savings. Together, we’ll help vulnerable families achieve economic stability and mobility.

**TURN IT RIGHT-SIDE UP**
The new tax law doubles down on wealthy inequality. Together, we will advocate for proven wealth-building tax incentives for low- and moderate-income households, especially those of color.

Sign up at prosperitynow.org/advocate
Prosperity Now Resources

For more, visit
scorecard.prosperitynow.org/policy-briefs-and-guides
Thank You!

Thank you to the Scorecard team and our Community Champions.

The Prosperity Now Scorecard would not be possible without the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
Thank You!

Please complete our survey