



Current Conditions of Low- and Moderate-Income Communities

To gain insight into the conditions of low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities in the seven states it serves, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis regularly surveys those who work with this population: community and economic development organizations, schools and colleges, financial institutions, government agencies, nonprofits, other community organizations and public officials. This sample of questions and answers comes from the latest survey, taken by 753 people in the summer of 2016.

To see the complete survey results, go to www.stlouisfed.org/CDOS.

To be part of the next Community Development Outlook Survey (summer 2017), contact Drew Pack, senior community development specialist at the Bank's Little Rock Branch, at andrew.a.pack@stls.frb.org or at 501-324-8268.



CENTRAL TO AMERICA'S ECONOMY
STLOUISFED.ORG

ALL RESPONDENTS:

17.6% believe that **general economic conditions** of the LMI communities are **improving** compared with one year ago.

37.8% believe that the **status of LMI communities** will be **better** in 3–5 years.

Which issues are having the **greatest negative impact** on LMI people?

METROPOLITAN AREAS:



1. Generational poverty
2. Availability of affordable housing
3. Education

RURAL AREAS:



1. Generational poverty
2. Job availability
3. Job skills

What is the **greatest employment barrier** facing people living in LMI communities?

METROPOLITAN RESPONDENTS:



18.3%
Adequate wages



17.8%
Essential skills (soft skills)



15.5%
Education

RURAL RESPONDENTS:



26.6%
Job availability



18.4%
Essential skills (soft skills)



12.1%
Adequate wages

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

33.1% of financial institutions report that demand for loans funding **community** and/or **economic development projects** is **increasing**.

14.1% of rural respondents report that such demand is **decreasing**.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

71.2% of nonprofits report that **demand** for their services is **increasing**.

40.2% of nonprofits experienced a **decrease** in their **funding** over the past year.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS:

Have there been any recent **business expansions** and **job additions** in the LMI areas in your community?



25.6% Yes
From both existing businesses and startups/entrepreneurs



12.0% Yes
From existing businesses



27.8% No
Declining business environment

28.6% expect an **increase** in **job growth** in their LMI areas during the next year.