



# 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 377 people in the summer of 2014.

To see the complete survey results, go to [www.stlouisfed.org/community\\_development/community-outlook-survey/](http://www.stlouisfed.org/community_development/community-outlook-survey/).

To be part of the next Community Development Outlook Survey (summer 2015), contact Drew Pack, senior community affairs specialist at the Bank's Little Rock Branch, at [andrew.a.pack@stls.frb.org](mailto:andrew.a.pack@stls.frb.org) or at 501-324-8268.



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## ALL RESPONDENTS:

**18.7%** believe that **general economic conditions** of the LMI communities are **improving** compared with six months ago.

**38.6%** 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. Job availability
3. Education

### RURAL AREAS:



1. Job availability
2. Generational poverty
3. Education

Which are the **best opportunities** for improving the lives of LMI people?

### METROPOLITAN RESPONDENTS:



**32.3%**  
Better education



**22.2%**  
Redevelopment to attract jobs and businesses



**11.4%**  
Enhanced financial literacy/capability

### RURAL RESPONDENTS:



**32.9%**  
Redevelopment to attract jobs and businesses



**26.8%**  
Better education



**9.1%**  
Enhanced financial literacy/capability

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

**27.7%** of financial institutions report that demand for loans funding **community and/or economic development projects** is **increasing**.

**31.0%** of rural respondents report that such demand is **decreasing**.

## NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

**70.3%** of nonprofits report that **demand** for their services is **increasing**.

**43.8%** of nonprofits experienced a **decrease** in their **funding** over the past six months.

## COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS:

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



**29.8% Yes**  
From both existing businesses and start-ups/entrepreneurs



**19.0% Yes**  
From existing businesses



**17.9% No**  
Declining business environment

**40.5%** expect an **increase** in **job growth** in their LMI areas in the next six months.