



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 306 people in the spring of 2013.

To see the complete survey results, go to www.stlouisfed.org/community_development/community-outlook-survey/.

To be part of the next Community Development Outlook Survey (spring 2014), contact Drew Pack, community affairs specialist at the Bank's Little Rock Branch, at andrew.a.pack@stls.frb.org or at 501-324-8268.



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ALL RESPONDENTS:

23.2% believe that **general economic conditions** of the LMI communities are **improving** compared with six months ago.

45.1% 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. Education
2. Job availability
3. Government budget cuts

RURAL AREAS:



1. Job availability
2. Job skills
3. Availability of affordable housing

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

METROPOLITAN RESPONDENTS:



31.7%
Better education



24.1%
Redevelopment to attract jobs and businesses



11.7%
Increased collaboration through public/private partnerships or collective action networks

RURAL RESPONDENTS:



39.4%
Redevelopment to attract jobs and businesses



20.2%
Better education



10.6%
Increased collaboration through public/private partnerships or collective action networks

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

24.2%

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

75.6%

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

57.8%

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

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS:

Which type of business has shown the most interest in **locating** or **relocating** to LMI areas of the communities you serve?



24.1%
Startups/
entrepreneurs



24.1%
Small businesses
(up to 99 employees)



5.2%
Mid-size businesses
(100-499 employees)

36.1%

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