



# Prosperity in Action

---

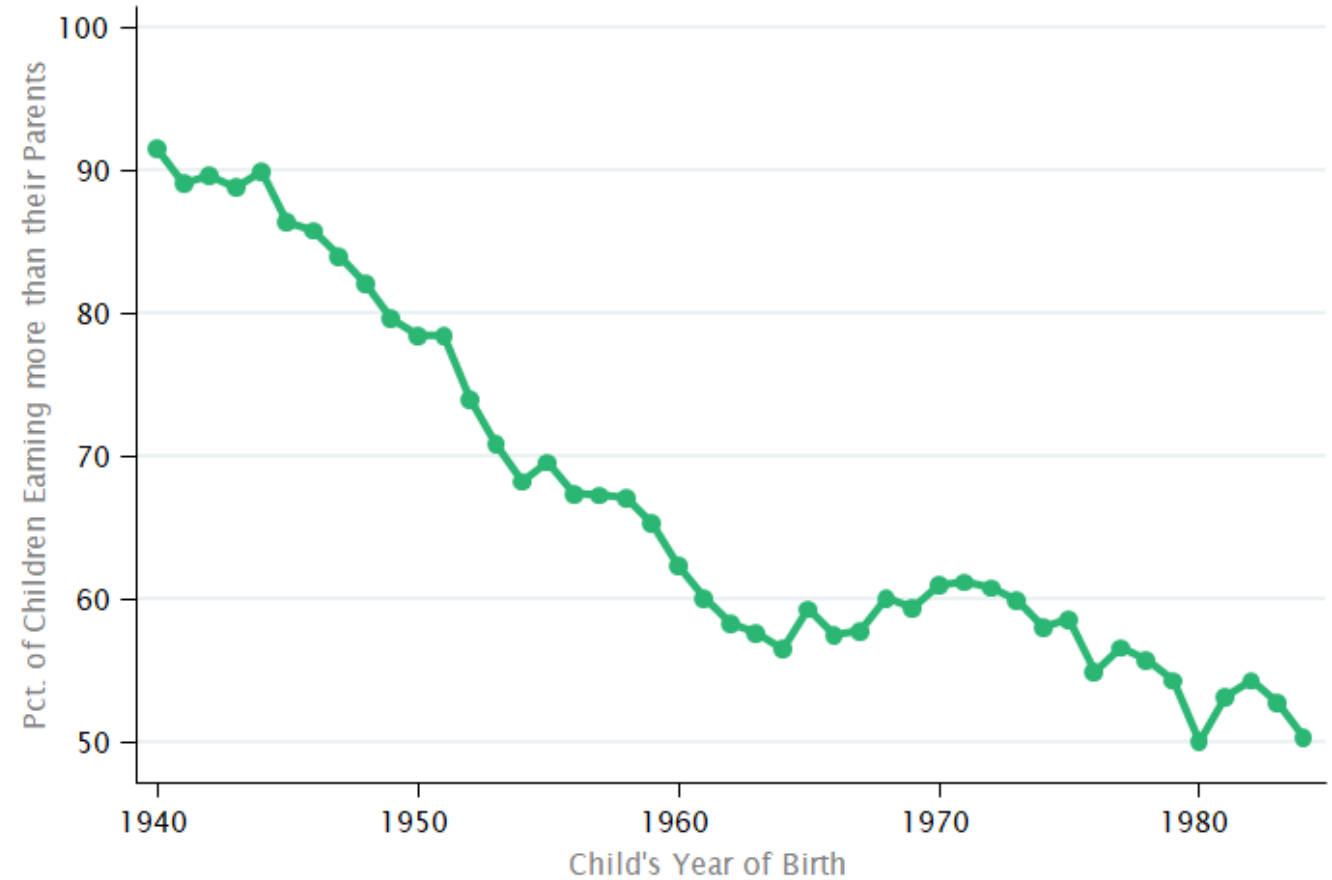
City Council | May 2026

Abigail Matthew Wade, Economic Mobility Officer

## Intergenerational Economic Mobility Over Time

- Nationally, the percent of a children at age 30 earning more than their parents did at age 30 has decreased since the 1940s:
  - Children born in 1940: 90% earned more
  - Children born in 1980: 50% earned more

Percent of Children Earning More than Their Parents, by Year of Birth



Source: "The American Dream Is Fading," *Opportunity Insights*, April 2, 2018, [https://opportunityinsights.org/national\\_trends/](https://opportunityinsights.org/national_trends/).

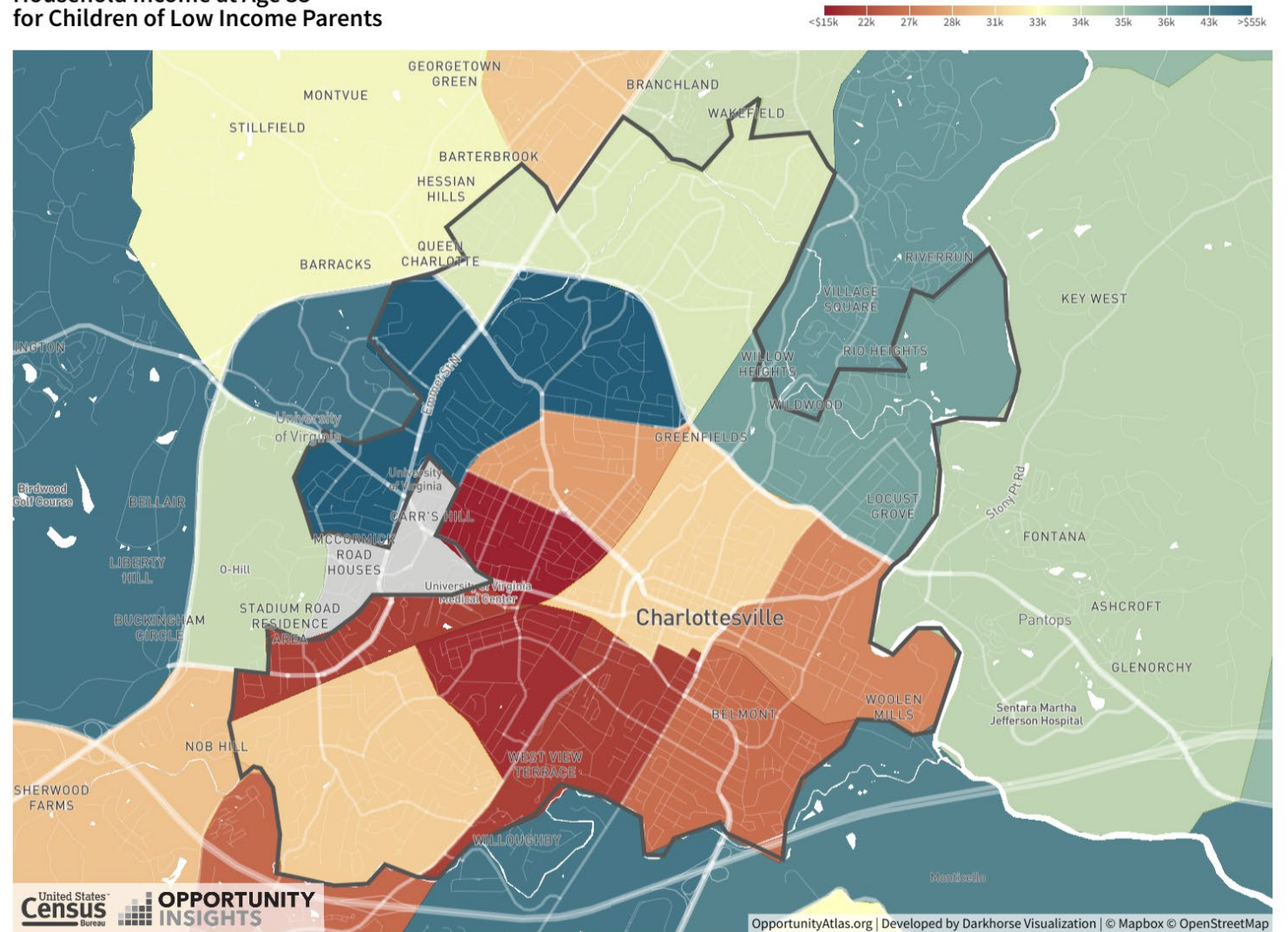
## Intergenerational Economic Mobility Is A Local Challenge

Studying individuals born between 1978-1983, Opportunity Insights research finds that where a child grew up impacts their upward mobility

In Charlottesville in 2014-2015, the average household income of children of parents with low incomes differed across census tracts/neighborhoods

- Fifeville: \$20k
- Greenbrier: \$34k
- Lewis Mountain/Barracks/Rugby/The Meadows: \$52k

Household Income at Age 35  
for Children of Low Income Parents



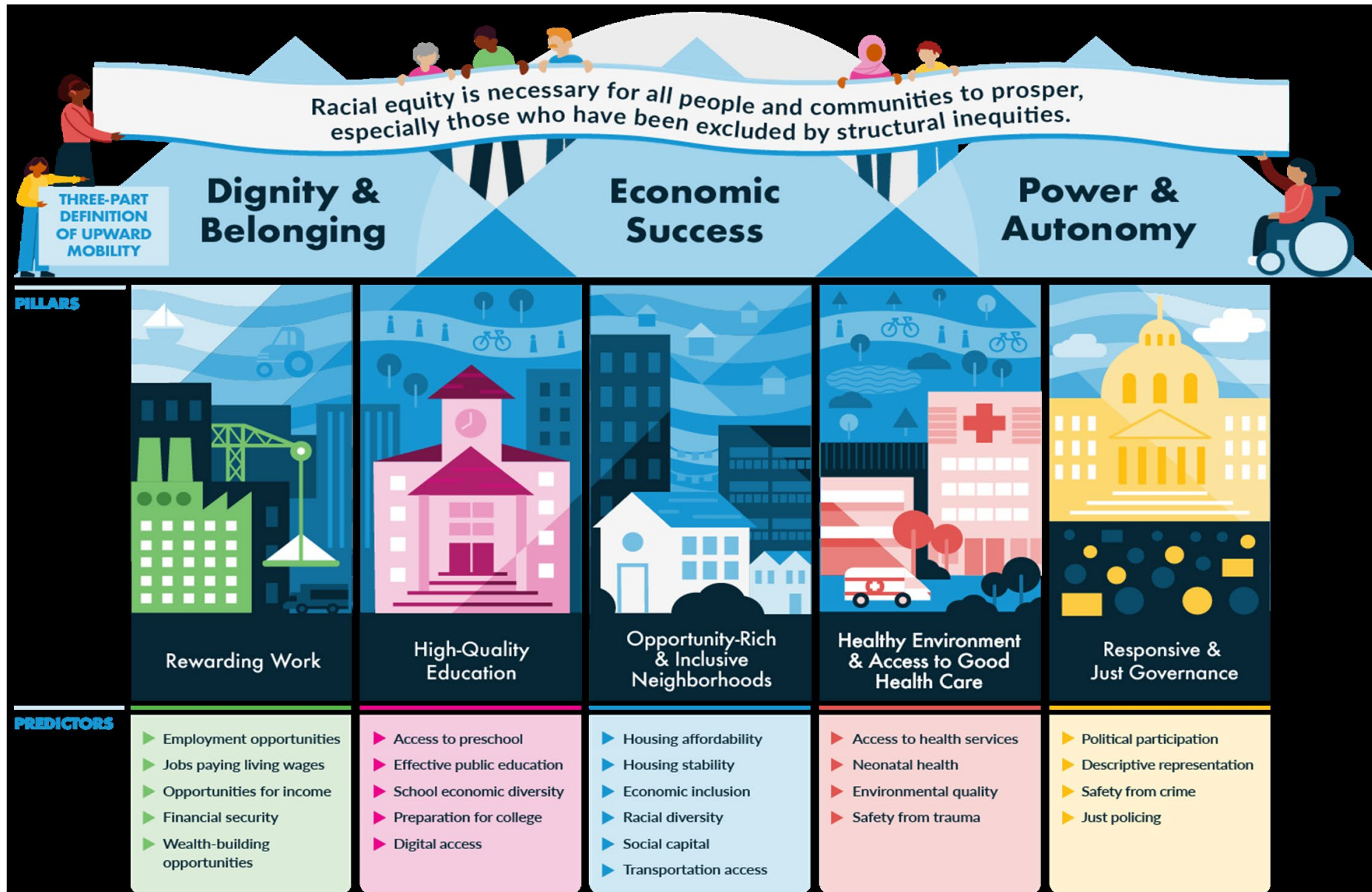
Source of research: Chetty, Raj, John Friedman, Nathaniel Hendren, Maggie Jones, and Sonya Porter. *The Opportunity Atlas: Mapping the Childhood Roots of Social Mobility*. No. W25147. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.3386/w25147>.

# The Aims of Economic Mobility and Opportunity (EMO)

Meeting basic needs

Stable housing and livable income

Saving and planning for your own and your family's future



# Charlottesville's EMO Work

- Key deliverable of EMO work in next year: **an action plan**
  - Co-designed with residents, particularly from communities which have historically experienced the least upward mobility
  - Coordinating across internal City departments and offices
  - Building partnerships with regional governments, non-profits, and community-based organizations

**January - March 2026**

- Gather and review key EMO data and strategies from peer communities
- Launch internal interdepartmental working group (and ongoing meetings throughout 2026)
- Begin coalition building with other localities and community organizations

**July - September 2026**

- Co-design Studios conducted
- Continued community connection and consultation through events and Connect page
- Start building out and refining the action plan

**December 2026 - early 2027**

- Present final EMO Action Plan to Council
- (If adopted) Begin implementation phase

**April - June 2026**

- Launch Connect Charlottesville EMO page
- Community connection and consultation events, including community dialogues and beginning Community Co-design Process
- EMO dashboard build

**October - November 2026**

- Co-design studios conclude
- Complete first draft of action plan
- Community Co-designers, internal partners, and coalition partners review draft action plan

# Ongoing Work and Upcoming Events

- Launched Interdepartmental Working Group on Economic Mobility and Opportunity (IWG EMO)
  - 13 City departments and offices represented
  - Exploring focus areas, opportunities, and levers
- Building a Connect page
- Community connection and consultation events and Community Co-design Studios this summer
- Upcoming event on May 7 with UVA Center for Community Partnerships

# EVENT- Dinner, Dialogue, and Data: Economic Mobility and Opportunity at Carver Recreation Center

*Community dialogue hosted by the City of Charlottesville and UVA Center for Community Partnerships.*

- **Thursday, May 7, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, Carver Recreation Center Multipurpose Room**
- Learn more about economic mobility data for the city and discuss defining economic thriving as a community
- Dinner will be provided
- RSVP using the QR code (optional)

RSVP for Dinner, Dialogue, and  
Data on May 7





# Q&A



# Appendix

## Families with Income Below Self-Sufficiency

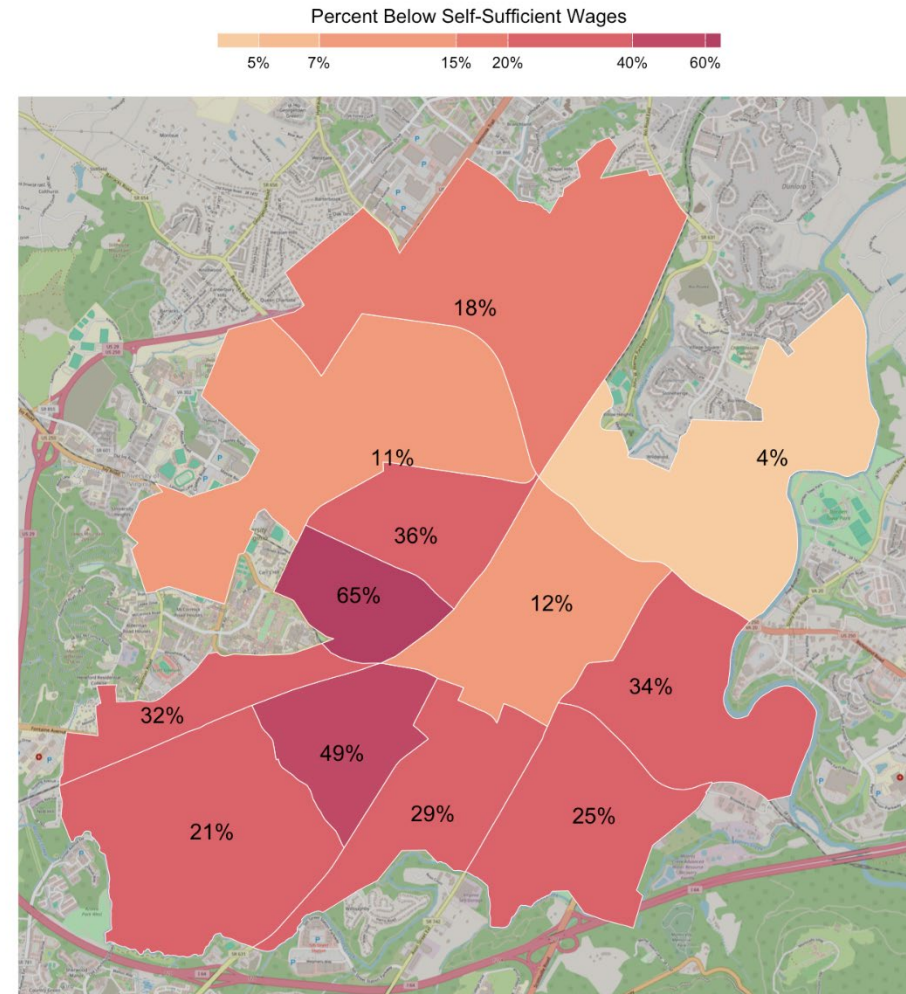
The Self-Sufficiency Standard calculates a real cost of basic needs varied based on locality and family size

- Similar measure to ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold

The 2021 Self-Sufficiency Standard for the average family in Charlottesville: \$60,876.27

10<sup>th</sup> and Page (65%) and Fifeville (49%) have the highest percent of families with income below Self-Sufficiency

## Families with Income below Self-Sufficiency Charlottesville City



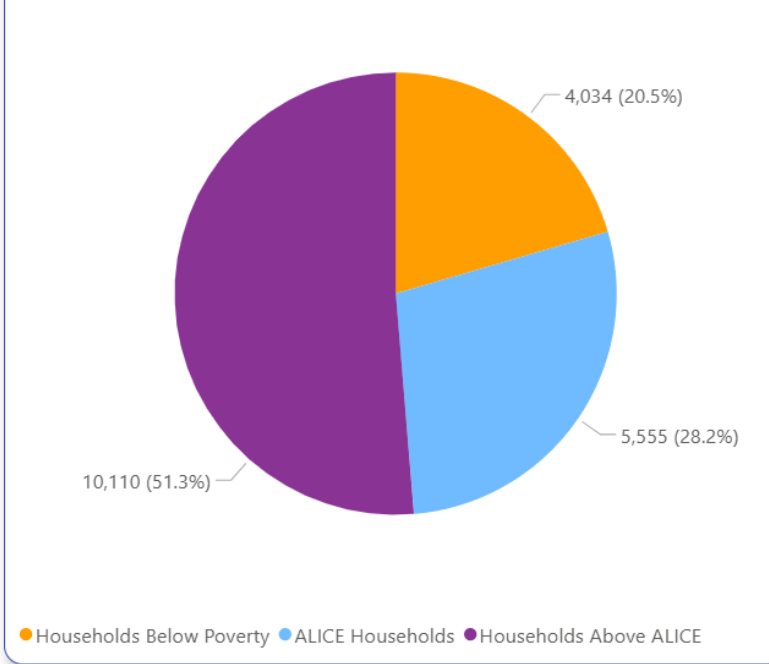
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2018-2022

Source: Elizabeth Mitchell et al., "Orange Dot Report 6.0," Charlottesville Data Resource Hub, UVA Center for Community Partnerships, October 21, 2024, <https://communitypartnerships.github.io/data-resources/reports/orange-dot-6.html>.

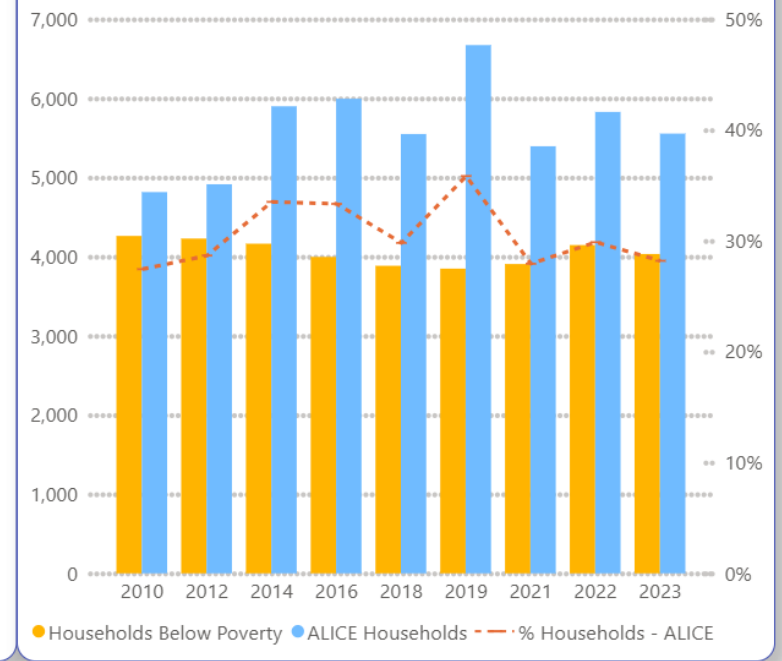
## Charlottesville ALICE Households

- 2023 Poverty Level for Family of 4 = **\$30,000**
- **ALICE** = **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed; income **<\$94,644** for a family of 4
- 48% of households in Charlottesville make below the ALICE survival budget threshold

Households by Income Group in Locality, 2023



Households Below Poverty & ALICE Households in Locality



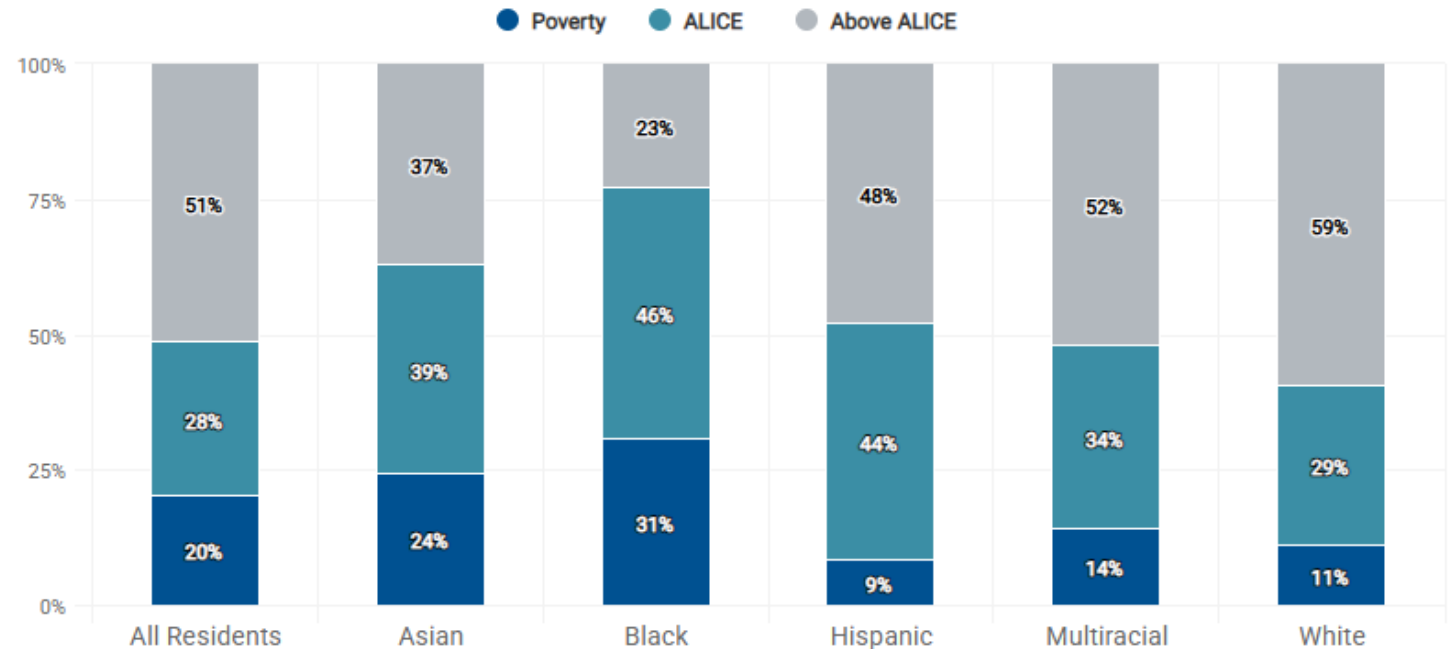
Source: "LDSS Annual Profile Report: ALICE Households," Virginia Department of Social Services, accessed March 12, 2026, <https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiYjhmODU2ZTYtZTc0Zi00ZTE1LWUwYmEtZjNjODAzODNkMTQ0IiwidCI6IjYyMGFINWE5LTRYzEtNGZhMC04NjQxLTVkOWYzODZjNzMwOSJ9>.

## ALICE Households by Race/Ethnicity

Percent of households below the ALICE threshold by race/ethnicity:

- 77% of Black households
- 63% of Asian households
- 53% of Hispanic/Latine households
- 48% of Multiracial households
- 40% of White households

ALICE Households by Race/Ethnicity  
City of Charlottesville



Data Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2023; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023

Source: "Community Wellbeing: City of Charlottesville Profile," Charlottesville Regional Data Resources, UVA Center for Community Partnerships, July 2025, <https://communitypartnerships.github.io/community-wellbeing/charlottesville-key-outcomes.html>.

# References

- Chetty, Raj, John Friedman, Nathaniel Hendren, Maggie Jones, and Sonya Porter. *The Opportunity Atlas: Mapping the Childhood Roots of Social Mobility*. No. W25147. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.3386/w25147>.
- Mitchell, Elizabeth, Michele Claibourn, and Ridge Schuyler. "Orange Dot Report 6.0." Charlottesville Data Resource Hub, UVA Center for Community Partnerships, October 21, 2024. <https://communitypartnerships.github.io/data-resources/reports/orange-dot-6.html>.
- "The American Dream Is Fading." *Opportunity Insights*, April 2, 2018. [https://opportunityinsights.org/national\\_trends/](https://opportunityinsights.org/national_trends/).
- Urban Institute Upward Mobility Initiative. "Upward Mobility Framework." Accessed March 16, 2026. <https://upward-mobility.urban.org/framework>.
- UVA Center for Community Partnerships. "Community Wellbeing: City of Charlottesville Profile." Charlottesville Regional Data Resources, July 2025. <https://communitypartnerships.github.io/community-wellbeing/charlottesville-key-outcomes.html>.
- Virginia Department of Social Services. "LDSS Annual Profile Report: ALICE Households." Accessed March 12, 2026. <https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrljoiYjhmODU2ZTYtZTc0Zi00ZTE1LWwEwYmEtZjNjODA2ODNkMTQ4IiwidCI6IjYyMGFINWE5LTRIYzEtNGZhMCM04NjQxLTVkOWYzODZjNzMwOSJ9>.