



Center for Economic Inclusion to Release New Data on Racial Disparities at First Annual Summit April 30

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St. Paul—The Center for Economic Inclusion will release new data April 30 at its first annual Powering Inclusion Summit showing racial disparities in the Twin Cities economy and suggesting ways to make the regional economy more inclusive and prosperous for all its citizens.

The Summit will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, the Depot, 225 3rd Ave. South, Minneapolis.

The “Indicators of an Inclusive Regional Economy” provide a multi-dimensional illustration of economic inclusion in the region by disaggregating key measures by races, place and income. The data include 14 indicators in four categories of economic inclusion: Inclusive Growth; Economic Development; Human Capital and Transportation and Access.

(Indicators attached. Access to the Indicators online with interactive tools will be available April 30.)

For example:

- **Employment is rising for Black workers**, but wages are the lowest of any racial group.
- **Full-time workers in poverty:** Approximately 1 in 3 Black full-time workers live in poverty. One in three American Indian workers, 1 in 2 Hispanic workers, 1 in 4 Asian workers and 1 in 5 white workers earn wages that would not lift an average household above 185 percent of the poverty line.
- **Black individuals are underrepresented as business owners:** Only 1.7 percent of regional businesses are owned by Black individuals, even though they make up 8.7 percent of the population. White individuals own 85 percent of the businesses, while making up 75.6 percent of the area’s population.
- **Low graduation rates for students of color at two-year institutions:** Fewer than half of students of color are graduating or transferring within three years of starting their two-year college degree programs.

- **Low graduation rates for Black and American Indian students at four-year colleges:** Fewer than half the Black and American Indian students who enter four-year degree programs graduate within six years.
- **High denial rates for middle-income Black applicants:** In 2017, more than 1 in 10 Black applicants were denied home financing, an increase over the previous year.
- **Wide gap between middle income White and Non-White households:** By contrast, from 2015-2017, fewer than 1 in 20 White applicants were denied home financing, a number that fell in 2017.

In addition to discussion of the data in the Indicators report, the Summit will include talks by **Tawanna Black**, [Founder and CEO of the Center for Economic Inclusion](#); **Alan Berube**, [Deputy Director, Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program](#); **Devean George**, [CEO, George Group North](#) and **Janis Bowdler**, [President of the JPMorgan Chase & Co. Foundation](#), as well as remarks by Minneapolis **Mayor Jacob Frey** and St. Paul Mayor **Melvin Carter** at the opening around 8:10 a.m. and **Governor Tim Walz** at 10 a.m. There will also be six breakout sessions and over 40 featured local speakers. More than 300 people are expected.

[\(full program\)](#)

“We have much work to do,” said Tawanna Black, Founder and CEO of the Center for Economic Inclusion. “A regional economy that includes everyone in its prosperity requires data-informed and market responsive actions, policies and procedures that center people of color. For too long, data analysis has been siloed by sector, industry and focus, and we have not looked comprehensively at the economic impacts of our decisions on communities of color. This tool is a starting point for change. Our next steps are to work to establish shared regional goals, support collective action to advance these goals, and provide mutual accountability on our progress.”

Black added that “a prosperous, competitive regional economy that includes people of color in every sector, at scale, is possible. Together we will build it.”

The [Center for Economic Inclusion](#) is dedicated exclusively to advancing inclusive growth for regional prosperity. We connect communities excluded by Race, Place, and Income with cross-sector leaders to cooperatively design an exciting new blueprint for growth that leverages market forces and our region's diversity. We elevate data-driven promising practices; advocate for inclusive policies; coordinate cross-sector, community driven-development; pilot strategies that close racial and economic gaps; and measure and collectively define progress to shape a regional economy that works for everyone. Learn more at www.CenterforEconomicInclusion.org

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