ECONOMIC SECURITY IS...

Highlighting the common story measures tell about economic security to better inform policy debate and help build public will toward common sense solutions.

Written by Annette Case
We are an aspirational, goal-oriented nation always striving to reach a next milestone: the better job, the higher wage, a dependable car, or manageable debt. Too often, however, families trying to get ahead just tread water. Single moms work three jobs, multiple generations live together under one roof, and freelancers with companies like Taskrabbit and Uber jump from job to job. They enjoy little breathing room to look ahead and can be squeezed out of opportunities to tap their full talents.

Measures of economic security, rather than poverty, help make sense of these experiences. They more accurately gauge the factors that allow families to become and remain economically stable and experience progress or upward mobility. They often define the goal to achieve and the building blocks necessary to get there as well as the systemic barriers families may face. Measures of economic security usually keep pace with living standards and describe material well-being and the ability to stay connected to the mainstream by assessing issues such as levels of civic engagement, internet access, access to affordable health care and child care, owning a winter coat or having a social network.

The federal poverty level (FPL) is an outdated standard defining who is or is not poor. In 2014, a mother with two children was considered poor if her income fell below $19,790. Working full time at the federal minimum wage, a single mother brings in roughly $15,000 a year and cannot earn her way out of poverty as defined by the FPL. Even when work does pave the way out of poverty, no longer being poor can still be a long way from achieving a sense of security: making ends meet and getting ahead.

Researchers, advocates, policy makers, service providers and the media often use measures of economic security, rather than the FPL, to:

- Measure the number of people faring well or not
- Describe and understand what factors contribute to well-being
- Determine the effect of policies on well-being
- Build evidence for policy change

AN OUTDATED STANDARD
THE FEDERAL MEASURE OF POVERTY

The federal measure of poverty (referred to generally as the Federal Poverty Level or FPL*) establishes a level of income below which a family is considered poor. In 2014, a mother with two children was considered poor if her income fell below $19,790. The measure remains the same regardless of where a family lives or household composition -- a family of three might include two adults and one child or one income earning adult and two children. Each year the Census Bureau releases poverty data to assess the number of children, seniors, working age adults, and families below or above this threshold or its multiples.

The measure was developed in 1964 as an experimental evaluation of the number of families unable to meet basic needs. At that time, the cost of food represented one third of an average family budget and the poverty measure equals an economy food budget multiplied by three and adjusted for family size. The FPL was never intended to serve as an official measure or remain static. Yet, it was officially adopted in 1969 with few changes over the decades. For a number of reasons explained in this paper, the measure has become effectively detached from modern living standards, yet remains a primary driver in allocating resources for programs that determine eligibility based on income, such as food, health care, child care, and cash assistance.

* The federal poverty thresholds are the original calculation of the federal poverty measure used for statistical calculations and the federal poverty guidelines are a simplified version of the thresholds used for determining income eligibility for public programs. Both are generally referred to as the Federal Poverty Level.

1 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2014 Poverty Guidelines, United States Department of Health and Human Serviceshttp://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/14poverty.cfm
No one measure fully captures all the complexities of economic security. Though varying measures each provide valuable perspectives, common themes emerge from the body of alternative measures and research. This brief highlights these common themes based on a review of primarily national measures of economic security. A clearer focus on the similarities among measures could better inform the broader policy debate and help build public will toward common sense solutions. The paper concludes with a discussion about the value and implications of these concepts in addressing economic security.

COMMON CONCEPTS OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

I. Forward Looking, Goal Oriented, Inclusive

Economic security measures quantify and articulate a positive level of well-being, that looks toward aspiration rather than fleeing deprivation.

Alternative measures tap into our fundamental aspirational drive toward progress and security. Belonging to an economically secure status is deeply embedded in the American psyche. Though a lagging recovery has tempered these feelings, more Americans, regardless of their actual incomes, choose to describe themselves as middle class.\(^2\) Gallup opinion polls report that being able to afford the basics relates to a sense of overall well-being, not just financial success.\(^3\) Relative to poverty, alternative measures articulate a more universal approach that includes all those striving to achieve or who have become economically secure.

Poverty articulates a state of deprivation, an undesirable status from which one should be removed. Policy efforts and language, such as the War on Poverty, aim to reduce and battle poverty. The status and concept of poverty materially and psychologically separates people from others. Individuals with fewer resources are less able to afford activities that sustain life in the mainstream, such as going out to eat or to the movies, having home computer and Internet access, or investing in band or soccer for children. While these activities could seem beyond the bare minimum of survival, they are also critical for engaging in the larger community, building relationships, and sharing information that can serve as stepping-stones to the next goal.\(^4\) Research shows that the stress and anxiety associated with the stigma and stereotyping of being poor can lead to distancing from those who are not poor and is in other ways harmful to self-worth and the ability to make decisions where stigma is strongly felt.\(^5\) Poverty status becomes an excluding force.

Individuals or families are often described as in or out of poverty. As the FPL is currently constructed, a family with one dollar of income above the poverty threshold no longer counts as poor, though that family will not be materially better off than a family technically in poverty. Using the poverty measure alone can mislead the public that no longer being poor means the family can now afford the basics. Discussions that center on who is and isn’t in poverty also reinforce the psychologically harmful stigma associated with poverty. Alternative measures illustrate the more complicated continuum that exists between poverty and economic security.

\(^3\) Lydia Saad, Making Ends Meet Is a Threshold for Person Wellbeing, (Gallup, Apr 16, 2010) http://www.gallup.com/poll/127391/making-ends-meet-threshold-person-wellbeing.aspx
II. Incomes Match Modern Living Standards

Income measures of economic security go well beyond any measure of poverty and often rise or fall with changes in the cost of living.

Income often serves as one proxy definition of economic security by representing the amount of money required to afford some basic level of necessities. Alternative budget models include a more comprehensive set of costs than the federal measure of poverty and account for changes in household budgets over time. For example, many modern family budgets include the cost of housing, childcare, and transportation, which represent a much higher proportion of household budgets today compared to the proportion needed for food in 1964.

Much of the research behind family budget measures demonstrate the significant gap between no longer counting a family as poor and affording the basics. The four family budgets below differ in methodology but arrive at similar income levels. Incomes derived from basic economic security budgets are always higher, often one and a half to four times higher, than poverty thresholds regardless of the cost of living in a state or locality.

Income is useful as a proxy but limited by the extent to which it glosses over diverse economic, family and community circumstances. Assumptions about the cost of childcare, transportation and health costs vary widely in models. For example, differences depend on whether or not health care is considered an employer provided benefit or not, or transportation assumes urban living calculated on the cost of a bus pass, or childcare is center based or provided at no cost by a relative. Income alone cannot capture the less tangible peace of mind that comes with access to health care regardless of how much insurance costs. Nor can it capture the reasons for cost variations such as whether employer provided insurance is affordable or covers the type of care family members need. A family with a child who has a disability may have much higher medical or education costs than other families.

III. Living Today, Planning for Tomorrow, Building for the Future

Economic Security is multi-dimensional and multi-generational.

Measures of how well people are faring or not show that multiple conditions must be in place to survive, if not thrive each day. The FPL’s more recent cousin, the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), acknowledges that multiple factors influence how families make ends meet and includes housing, food, clothing, utilities and a small amount for additional miscellaneous expenses. Because the measure uses consumer expenditure data,
the income threshold adjusts based on actual spending patterns for the poorest third of families.\(^6\) The SPM also demonstrates the effect of policies to mitigate the material hardship of poverty by counting public supports, such as food and energy assistance, as income.

The first generation of alternative family budget measures, such as the Self Sufficiency Standard, generated a more comprehensive, realistic assessment of the type and costs of living expenses that add up to a total monthly or annual income. Budget models that aggregate costs focus our attention on the income necessary to meet day-to-day living expenses.

Examining day-to-day expenses represent only one slice of our whole lives and a point in time in our life cycle. Daily living cannot be separated from the issues and effects of past and future generations. Adults must pay the bills today, plan for their retirement and invest in their children’s future, while caring for their parents all at the same time. Aging parents and their adult children and grandchild may all be living together and contributing to the economic security of the current household. The assets families inherit and acquire over time play a role in the well-being of their next generation.

Household wealth is a major driver in the ability to protect against tomorrow’s surprises or emergencies, as well as plan for and invest in the future. Research describes the tremendous effect of assets such as homeownership, access to higher income jobs, and education to create and build wealth, as well as how unemployment or foreclosure can drastically strip away wealth.\(^7\) Inherited wealth further tilts the playing field and moves the starting line for the next generation as they work to realize their economic security and experience mobility.

Next generation measures account for both survival and resiliency over the life cycle and across generations. The Basic Economic Security Tables (BEST) include calculations for immediate life changes such as the loss of a job, debt, and savings for emergencies. The Elder Security Index focuses on the circumstances of aging individuals. The Assets and Opportunity Scorecard includes many forms of assets such as education and health care as well as savings and retirement accounts. It also assesses the extent to which state policies promote the ability of families to build assets over time. The Economic Security Index assesses the level of wealth families have gained or lost over time. Other measures tie our economic well-being today to our fates in the future. Kids Count assess the well-being of families today to forecast opportunity for the next generation. The Opportunity Index assesses mobility across generations based on structural differences by zip code.

IV. Health, Education, Employment/Income/Wealth

**Alternative measures address critical determinants of opportunity and economic well-being.**

Analysis of well-being has become more layered and sophisticated over time. Measures of economic security consistently point toward deeper structural determinants of well-being that influence life outcomes and create a context within which individuals make decisions.\(^8\) Broad categories of health, employment and education consistently rise to the top as the primary factors that influence life opportunities. Most measures include some

---

\(^6\) The SPM was developed by the National Academy of Sciences in 1995 and is now produced by the Census Bureau as an unofficial alternative approach to measuring poverty. The SPM was developed to address many of the inefficacies of the FPL. In its final report the NAS acknowledged the political challenges of creating a measure that significantly increased the poverty rate and therefore tied the threshold to an arbitrarily low level of 33% consumer expenditures so that the final measures of poverty would not vary too widely from the FPL. Constance F. Citro and Robert T Michael, eds., *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach* (National Academy Press: Washington, DC 1995)


data related to these issues. *Kids Count*, *The Opportunity Index*, *Measure of America*, and *Assets and Opportunity Scorecard* are a few examples of aggregated data projects that raise these as core components of well-being. Embedded within each of these categories are many other indicators and related data points such as affordable and quality housing, homeownership, the number of high paying jobs, access to credit, graduation rates, pre-school enrollment, birth weight and child mortality and access to health care including the number of doctors per 1000 residents. Many of these indicators relate to conditions within a community. Regardless of the decisions individuals might make, access to health care or the local concentration of high paying jobs shape individual opportunities to find a high paying job or see a doctor.

V. Place Matters

Zip codes shine a light on geographic differences and influences economic well-being.

Different regions, states, cities and rural areas all offer inherently unique traits such as the rugged Northwest coastline, the Olympic Mountains, the vast Midwest plains, Southwestern deserts or the electric life of Manhattan. Different costs of living, types of industries and economies, natural resources, amenities, and cultural identity create the personality and shape opportunities available in a neighborhood, city, or region. All of these characteristics exert influence on those born into them and create the conditions in which they make individual decisions. Among the many reasons, people also choose where they live based on their proximity to family, or a job, or because of a community’s appeal and fit with their lifestyle. Measures and data, whether focusing on day to day expenses, saving for the future or structures of opportunity all demonstrate that family economic security and community conditions are inseparable.

Though they do not necessarily capture the more subjective value of amenities, budget models do describe different costs of living. Housing in Oakland, California is high cost, particularly when compared to Aberdeen, South Dakota, though the costs of transportation in rural Aberdeen may be much higher than in urban Oakland. Budgets show how much these factors can affect overall economic security. Even though measures might use a different lens or set of indicators to define economic security, the results of their geographical disparities analysis are similar. Minnesota and Mississippi are consistently on opposite ends of the economic security spectrum (Minnesota often scoring higher on well-being indicators and Mississippi lower) regardless of the indicator in aggregate data efforts such as *The Working Poor Families Project*, *Kids Count*, and *The Measure of America*.

Going one step further, *Opportunity Mapping* and *Opportunity Index* also show how zip codes strongly correlate economic well-being to structures that influence opportunities and generational mobility such as high quality schools, access to sustainable employment and transportation, homeownership/equity, affordable housing, neighborhood safety, preschool enrollment and the number of available grocery stores. The place where a person is born can be defined as low or high opportunity and affect prospects for mobility over the course of a lifetime and generations.

VI. Policy Choices Shape Opportunities

Policy decisions can correct and improve the trajectory of economic security and equity outcomes.

*The Assets and Opportunities Scorecard*, *Opportunity Mapping*, *Opportunity Index* and others align outcomes of economic well-being and policy decisions. Health, education, and employment structures vary widely by state and locality and are shaped by policy decisions. Whether or not a state opted to accept federal dollars to expand Medicaid, or whether a higher minimum wage or a state earned income tax credit exists, are all state and local
Policy decisions play a role in, for example, the quality of jobs or health care available and, taken together, influence overall economic security. Location matters in part because of the policy decisions made at the city, district, county and state level. Outcomes of well-being tend to follow from these decisions. Areas with higher minimum wage or more health care also often show a population with higher levels of education and higher incomes overall. These tend to score highly on indices that aggregate economic security data.

Policy decisions compound their impact across generations. Most measures highlight disparities by gender, race, ethnicity and age. Disparities data commonly show, for example, Blacks and Latinos with lower incomes, levels of education, and higher rates of unemployment compared to Whites. Blacks and Latinos and single mothers experience labor market disadvantages. People of color and women are paid less because the jobs historically available to them pay less, even when levels of education are constant across groups. A long history of redlining and residential segregation led to significant wealth disparities by race, both in the ability to acquire assets such as a home as well as the value of that asset. Uneven access to supports such as unemployment insurance for women, people of color, and working people who are paid low wages today stems from its 1930s origins, at a time when more white men were afforded full time jobs and served as breadwinners while women worked in the home. Even though social and economic conditions have changed, the effects of historical policy decisions perpetuate disparity. New policies can correct such legacies of discrimination and improve economic security and equity.
IMPLICATIONS

Measuring and reducing poverty alone does not accomplish enough meaningful improvement in peoples’ lives that it should remain the primary benchmark or point of discussion for how well people are faring. Alternative measurement efforts more coherently describe and address economic security. The process of reviewing such measures also highlights issues to consider in any collective effort to advance economic security.

Tell a Whole Story to Advance Economic Security

Public debates often tell only half the story when it comes to understanding economic security. For example, proponents often describe the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), as lifting families out of poverty. The EITC, like other public supports, are valuable programs that provide critical benefits to families. As a single program that just lifts people above an outdated, artificially low and arbitrary line, it can neither solve poverty nor necessarily propel people to sustainable well-being. The consequences of the public and policy makers misunderstanding what it takes to afford the basics are real for children and will continue to affect future generations. Research shows that limited opportunity and resources available due to low incomes curtail children’s educational achievements, earnings and health outcomes.\textsuperscript{9} Further, investing additional resources when children are very young demonstrate long-term improvements over the course of their lives. Data and goals should more accurately inform public debate about meaningful levels of well-being and how to both substantively address the cause and consequences of hardship and advance toward economic security.

Achieve and Track Progress Based on a Continuum from Poverty to Economic Security

Using one measure, though tempting for simplicity sake, undermines the reality and complexity of economic security and well-being. Poverty is understood as having too little. Other measures show the continuum of economic and material well-being that exists beyond poverty. Adopting multiple measures would help acknowledge, describe and track progress along this continuum. This approach will help improve public understanding and ultimately policy decisions to address structures of opportunity and equity. It is beyond the scope of this paper to suggest which measures should be adopted, but proposals exist that should be explored further.\textsuperscript{10}

Move from Disparity to Equity

Measures commonly describe disparities by race, gender and geography. Disparities are similar for groups/regions regardless of the measures. Measures do not always convey the value and purpose of highlighting disparities. Is the intent to reach parity with the group experiencing the best circumstances, even if those circumstances are less than optimal by any standards? By elevating disparities without adequate policy context, data often serves to reinforce stereotypes without pointing the way toward policy solutions that promote greater equity and opportunity.\textsuperscript{11} If one purpose of measures is to assure similar overall economic security outcomes across groups, perhaps disparity data seen through the lens of a specific goal to achieve will identify different solutions. For example, women are paid less than men in every state and pay varies by race/ethnicity. Asian/Pacific Islander women experience the smallest pay gap earning 88.5% of what white men are paid while Latinas are paid 53.8%.

In this case the policy goal should be full pay equity for all women in comparable jobs. Understanding differences should help measure progress toward that goal. At a minimum, disparity data should be handled with care and, where possible, set within the context of structures that cause disparity. Ideally, concepts of economic security should help point the way toward goals and solutions that provide opportunity and build economic security for all.

Advance Comprehensive Agendas Through an Economic Security Lens

Policy decisions create change at scale. Economic security is a function of many interacting, moving parts, so no single policy lever is the silver economic security bullet. The concepts discussed in this paper tell an overarching story of economic security supported by data. By telling an overarching story, policy campaigns can lay the groundwork to build economic security for all, even as they advance one or a few levers at a time.

The overarching story also helps make the case for improving multiple structures at once to both remove barriers as well as promote economic security. A number of existing campaigns aim to raise wages and promote job stability at the same time. For example, Minnesota recently passed the Women’s Economic Security Act, which included an increase to the minimum wage and improved family leave policies, as well as demonstrating that multiple issues must be addressed to achieve economic security. Similarly, San Diego, California bundled paid sick and minimum wage campaigns under the banner of improving economic security for hard working residents. Massachusetts also passed paid leave and minimum wage policies close together as the result of a more comprehensive economic/worker security campaign. Other cities and states are considering a similar approach to advance a slate of policies in the name of improving economic security.

Efforts to understand and describe economic well-being and equity continue to evolve. The more measures reinforce a common understanding of economic security, the more they will penetrate the public’s mind and create room for policies that promote tangible economic progress for families. The valuable lessons already learned should be better harnessed to advance opportunity wherever possible. Generations ahead depend on our collective action today.

Thanks to the Kresge Foundation for making Metrics Matter possible.

Click here or visit insightcced.org to download a PDF of Insight’s groundbreaking first report on the power of metrics, Measuring Up: Aspirations for Economic Security in the 21st Century.

13 Information about the Act and the coalition efforts can be found here. Women’s Economic Security Agenda, http://www.mnwesa.org

## Sets Income Poverty Thresholds or Includes Income Poverty Indicators
- Federal Poverty Line (U.S. Census)
- SPM (U.S. Census)
- New York City CEO's (SPM-aligned) measure
- Urban Institute's (SPM-aligned) measure
- Institute for Research on Poverty's (SPM-aligned) measure
- Lower Living Standard Income Level (DOL)
- Area Median Income (HUD)
- Self Sufficiency Standard (CWW)
- Basic Family Budgets (EPI)
- Basic Needs Budgets (NCCP)
- Elder Economic Security Standard Index (WOW)
- Basic Economic Security Tables Index (WOW)
- Economic Security Index (ESI)
- Senior Financial Security Index (IASP/DEMOS)
- Assets and Opportunity Scorecard (CFED)
- American Human Development Index (SSRC)
- Genuine Progress Indicator (Redefining Progress)
- Opportunity Mapping (Kirwan Institute)
- Opportunity Index (Opportunity Nation)
- KIDS COUNT Index (Annie E. Casey Foundation)

## Sets Income Adequacy Thresholds or Includes Income Adequacy Indicators

## Sets Asset Poverty or Insecurity Thresholds

## Sets Wealth Adequacy Thresholds at Household Level

### Summary of Metrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator Type</th>
<th>Geographic Level</th>
<th>Uses</th>
<th>Determines Eligibility for at Least One Public Program (whether local, state, or federal)</th>
<th>Developers Focus on Educating Policymakers</th>
<th>Developers Focus on Pitching Results to the Media or Results Garner Media Attention</th>
<th>Used in Case Management</th>
<th>Promoters Focus on Coalition-building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Poverty Line (U.S. Census)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPM (U.S. Census)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City CEO's (SPM-aligned) measure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Institute’s (SPM-aligned) measure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute for Research on Poverty's (SPM-aligned) measure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Living Standard Income Level (DOL)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Median Income (HUD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self Sufficiency Standard (CWW)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Family Budgets (EPI)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Needs Budgets (NCCP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder Economic Security Standard Index (WOW)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Economic Security Tables Index (WOW)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Security Index (ESI)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Financial Security Index (IASP/DEMOS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets and Opportunity Scorecard (CFED)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Human Development Index (SSRC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genuine Progress Indicator (Redefining Progress)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity Mapping (Kirwan Institute)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity Index (Opportunity Nation)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIDS COUNT Index (Annie E. Casey Foundation)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author's categorization
METRICS MATTER

Metrics Matter is a national network innovating how we understand and apply metrics to improve economic security. The federal poverty measure tells an incomplete story of the resources necessary to get by and get ahead. Economic security is a mosaic of health, education, income, wealth, and employment, among other opportunity structures. More advanced metrics can help us understand economic security in a more comprehensive way. We support collective action and more effective use of data and metrics by social and economic justice advocates, researchers, organizers and human service providers that promote key drivers of economic security such as increasing wages, building assets over a lifetime across generations, and improving job quality.

State and local organizations play a critical role in shifting the national policy debate and landscape. By working together more effectively, we tell a more powerful and consistent story that builds public will and advances change.

Metrics Matter is:
• Creating new tools that quickly and effectively translate concepts of economic security;
• Developing and deploying a more powerful narrative about economic security and equity to enhance collective action and advance policy change; and
• Collaborating with local, regional, and state groups to add capacity while elevating voices nationally to further activate, grow, and strengthen collective action.

POWERED BY THE INSIGHT CENTER

Since 1969, Insight has empowered individuals and communities to become and remain economically secure. We achieve this goal through thought leadership, research, and community action. Our core program and policy goals include increasing wages, building household assets, and improving job quality.

The Insight Center bolsters collective action through statewide, regional and national networks, including:
• Experts of Color Network
• National Network of Sector Partners
• BIG Initiative Network (buy local, invest local, give local)

Get Involved
The Insight Center is effective because of the network of partners and collaborators who share in our work. If you are interested in getting involved with Metrics Matter, please contact Insight Senior Consultants Don Baylor at dbaylor@insightcced.org and Annette Case at acase@insightcced.org.