

Economic/Racial Justice The Racial Wealth Gap

CUMBERLAND COUNTY



FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL

Opening Activity

- What brings everyone here today?
- How does your organization, or community engage in anti-hunger or anti-poverty efforts?
- Are you familiar with the racial wealth or income gap?

What's the Scope?

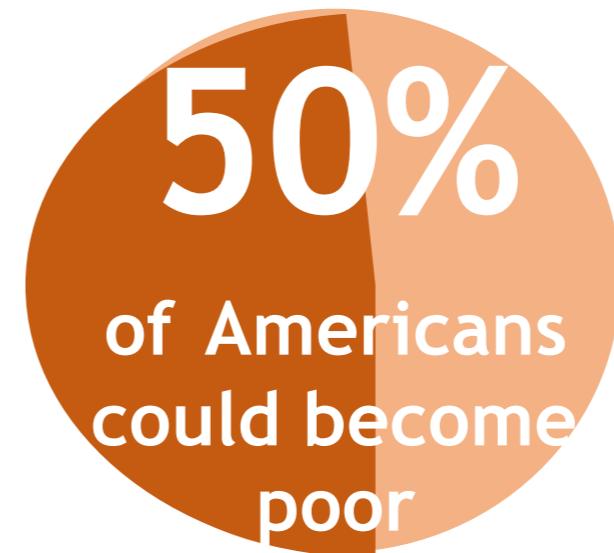
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½ of American households would face poverty if someone lost a job or got sick.



What's the Scope?

People of color are more likely to face all three:

- They are TWICE as likely to:
 - Experience *hunger*
 - Live *below the poverty line*
 - Be one paycheck away from *becoming poor*

BUT WHY??

The Racial
Wealth and
Income Divide!

An Act to Reduce Child Poverty by Leveraging Investments so Families can Thrive (LIFT 3.0)

Today nearly one in eight Maine children is growing up poor with an average household income of less than \$12,000 a year.

One out of every five is food insecure, living in families that worry whether they will have enough to eat.

Child poverty weighs all of us down — it challenges our schools, our health care system, our communities, and our economy.

An Act to Reduce Child Poverty by Leveraging Investments so Families can Thrive (LIFT 3.0)

Improve access to the Parents as Scholars (PaS) program by allowing schools to enroll low-income parents so they can get a degree or industry-recognized credential, providing a pathway out of poverty and helping to address Maine's workforce shortage.

An Act to Reduce Child Poverty by Leveraging Investments so Families can Thrive (LIFT 3.0)

Significantly reduce the “benefits cliff” families face when they transition off Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) into employment so families can sustain employment and move out of poverty.

An Act to Reduce Child Poverty by Leveraging Investments so Families can Thrive (LIFT 3.0)

Eliminate the “gross income test” in TANF, which prevents families struggling with poverty from accessing temporary assistance. This would allow more Maine families to meet their basic needs and get help finding a job, education, and training.

An Act to Reduce Child Poverty by Leveraging Investments so Families can Thrive (LIFT 3.0)

Establish a Working Group to make improvements at DHHS to help make government accountable to all of us and ensure that programs are working to help LIFT families out of poverty.

An Act to Reduce Child Poverty by Leveraging Investments so Families can Thrive (LIFT 3.0)

Require DHHS to measure and track Maine's progress on poverty, food insecurity, and other measures of child well-being.

LR 2236

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH

THE MAINE AFRICAN AMERICAN

HISTORY AND CULTURE COMMISSION

- African Americans have made tremendous contributions to Maine and the United States of America, but have been largely ignored in our traditional education curriculum.
- The true legacy of African Americans needs to be truthfully told. It would be a great disservice not only to African Americans, but to all Americans, if we fail to appropriately recognize this important milestone (400 years) in our Nation's history.

LR 2236

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HISTORY AND CULTURE COMMISSION

- The purpose of this commission is to provide a curriculum framework, time line, budget and recommendations that will expand the knowledge and understanding of the presence of African Americans in Maine.
- This bill will establish a commission to recognize and highlight the resilience and contributions of African Americans since 1619. From enduring slavery to fighting in the Civil War, to working against the oppressive Jim Crow laws, to struggling through the civil rights movement, the rich history of African Americans in the United States and their contributions to Maine began hundreds of years ago. The Commission will produce an initial historical framework within one year and issue a report on its findings to the Legislature including a recommendation on curriculum and how to move the work forward.

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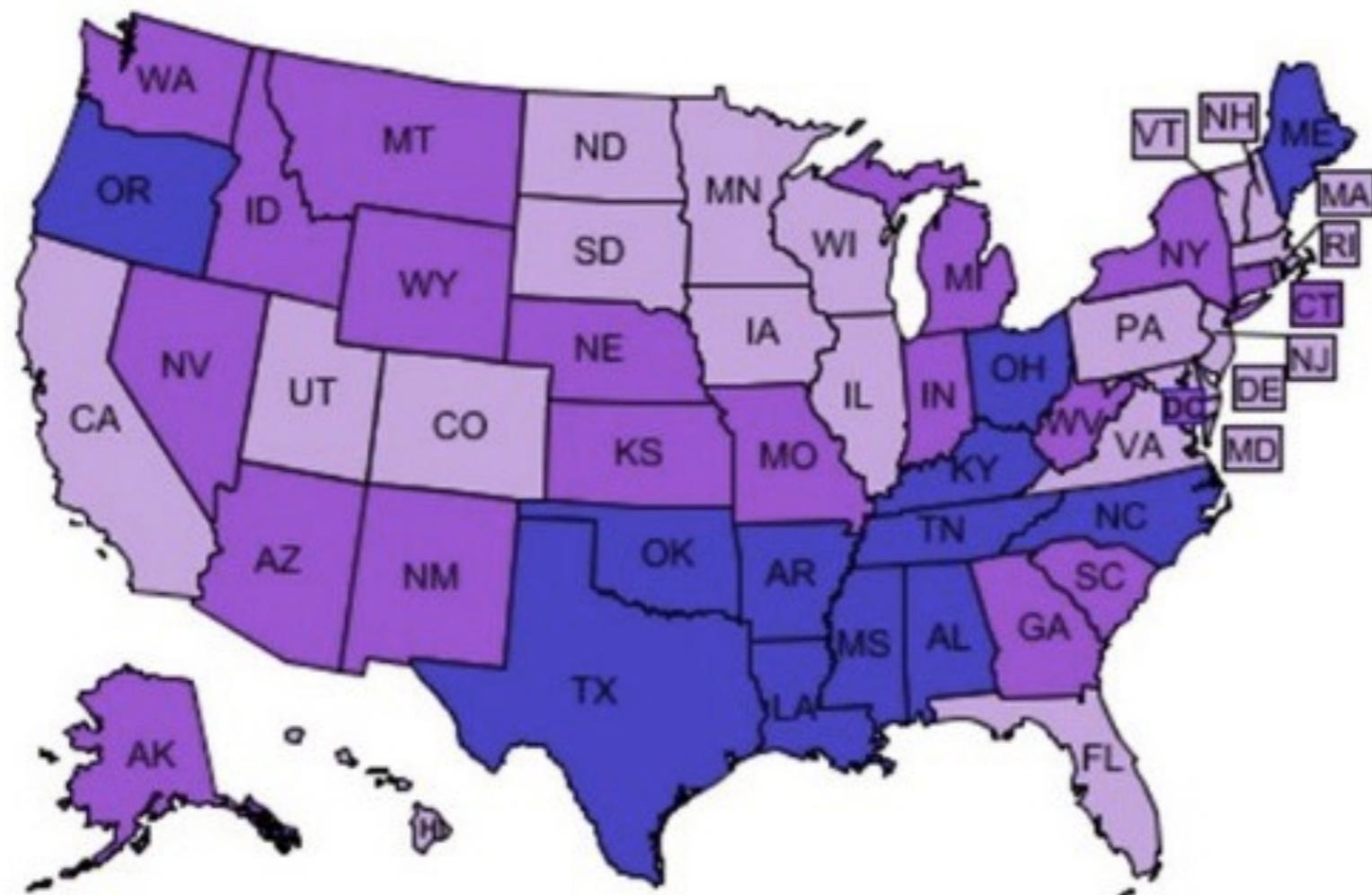
- The commission established by this bill will also be charged with the important task of planning, developing, and implementing a series of programs and activities throughout 2020 to correspond with Maine's bicentennial (200 years) commemoration.
- The Commission must outline a process to incorporate the full breadth and significance of the African American experience in Maine's history and social studies curriculum.
- It will deliver a report of its findings and set of recommendations to move the goals identified forward to the state legislature

- LD. 768: Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Research the Economic Disparities of Racial and Ethnic Populations
- LD 777: An Act To Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Populations

Green New Deal

Just Transitions

Prevalence of food insecurity, average 2013-15



- Food insecurity below U.S. average
- Food insecurity near U.S. average
- Food insecurity above U.S. average

Food Insecurity
Prevalence ranges from:
8.5% in North Dakota to
20.8% in Mississippi

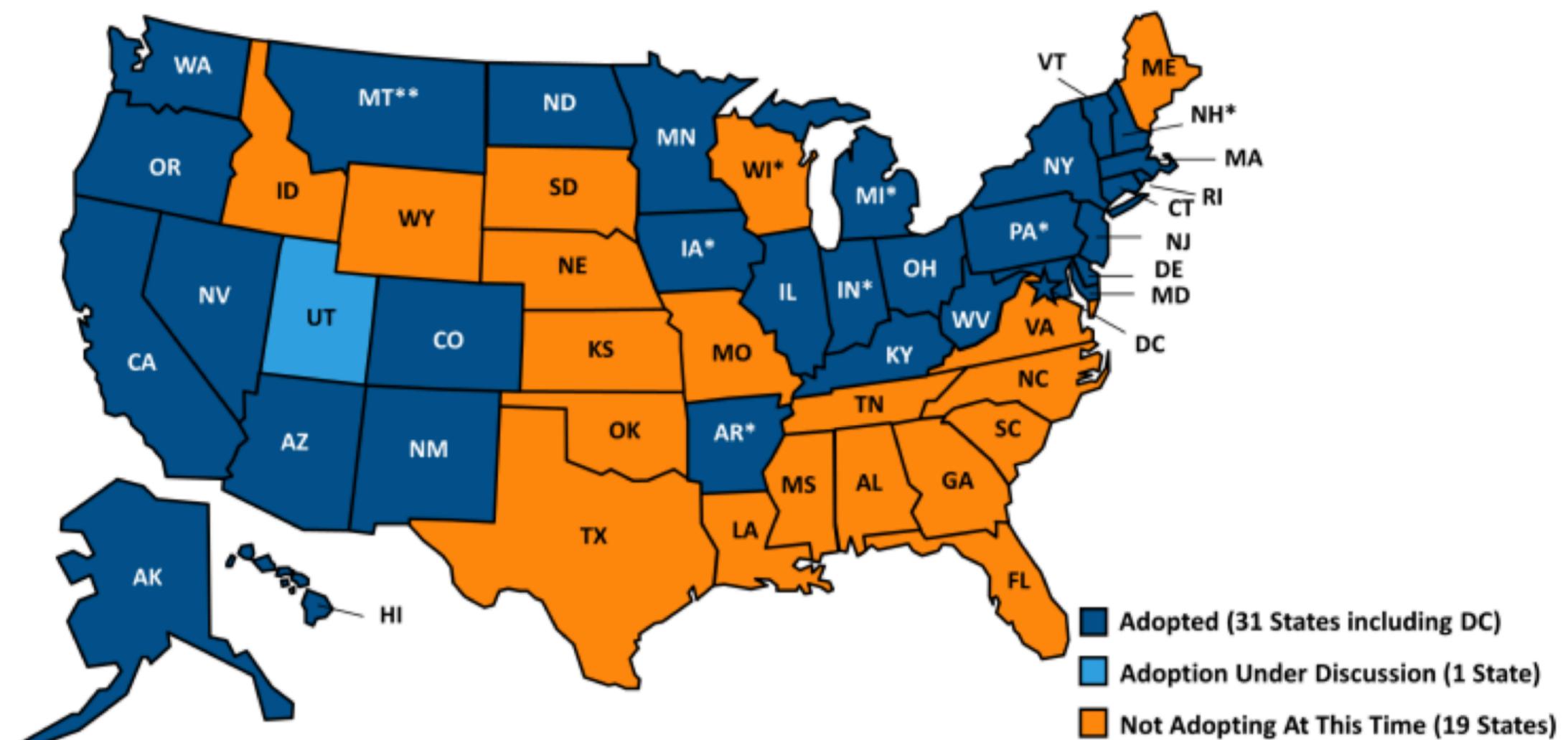
Significant increase in food
insecurity from 2010-12 to
2013-15 for:
OR, 13.6% to 16.1%

Significant decline in food
insecurity from 2010-12 to
2013-15 for:
CA, FL, GA, HI, IL, MD, NV,
RI, SC, TX, and UT

Source: Calculated by ERS based on Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.

Medicaid Expansion

Current Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions



NOTES: Current status for each state is based on KCMU tracking and analysis of state executive activity. **MT has passed legislation adopting the expansion; it requires federal waiver approval. *AR, IA, IN, MI, PA and NH have approved Section 1115 waivers. Coverage under the PA waiver went into effect 1/1/15, but it is transitioning coverage to a state plan amendment. WI covers adults up to 100% FPL in Medicaid, but did not adopt the ACA expansion.

SOURCE: "Status of State Action on the Medicaid Expansion Decision," KFF State Health Facts, updated September 1, 2015. <http://kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/state-activity-around-expanding-medicaid-under-the-affordable-care-act/>