



# Pathways to Success Signal Team

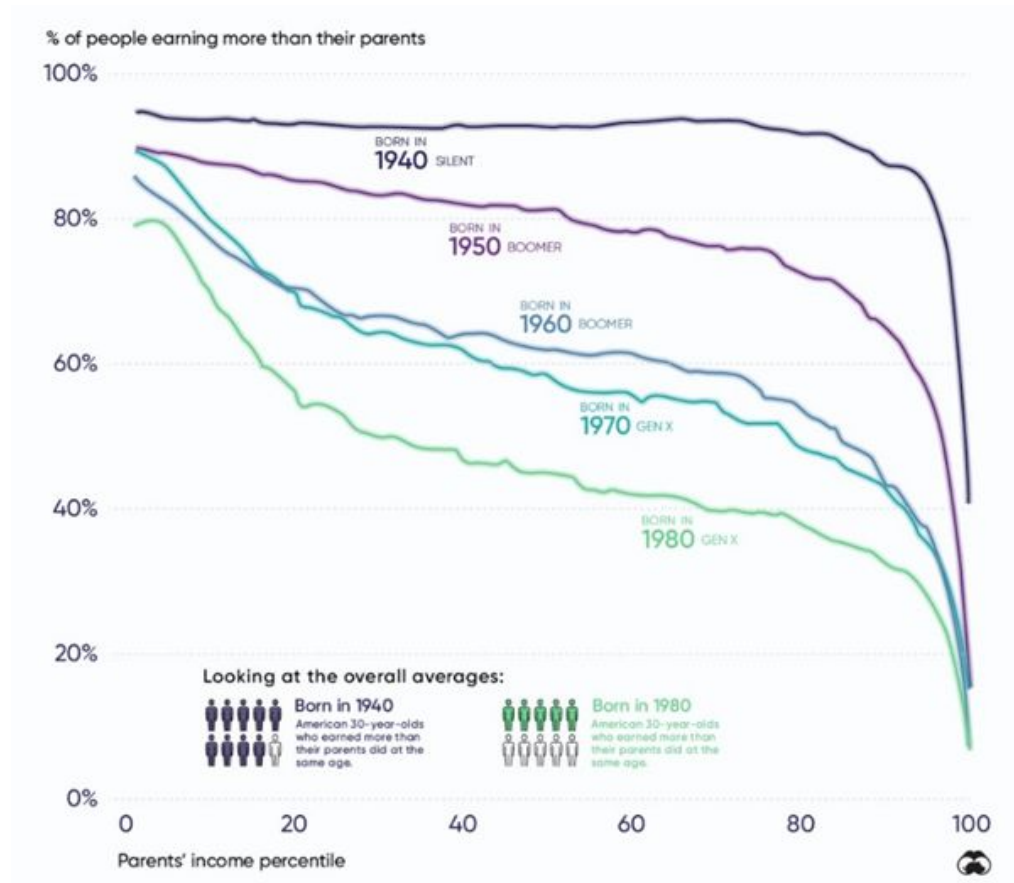
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*Upward Mobility:  
The capacity for rising to a higher  
social or economic position  
More simply--  
To out-earn and out-learn your  
family of origin*

The Challenge: Do we compare Brown County to others in the US, or compare the US to the other western (European) Countries?

Answer: We did both!

# How are we doing? National Trend:



# How are we doing? International Comparison:

## Social Mobility Rank, 2020

*World Economic Forum*

Rank	Country	Index Score
1	Denmark	85.2
2	Norway	83.6
3	Finland	83.6
4	Sweden	83.5
5	Iceland	82.7
6	Netherlands	82.4
7	Switzerland	82.1
8	Belgium	80.1
9	Austria	79.8
10	Luxembourg	78.8
27	United States	70.4

If each country increased its score by 10 index points it would result in 4.41% of cumulative GDP growth for the global economy by 2030. The United States would add 867 billion in GDP.



# Three Part Definition of Mobility from Poverty: The Urban Institute

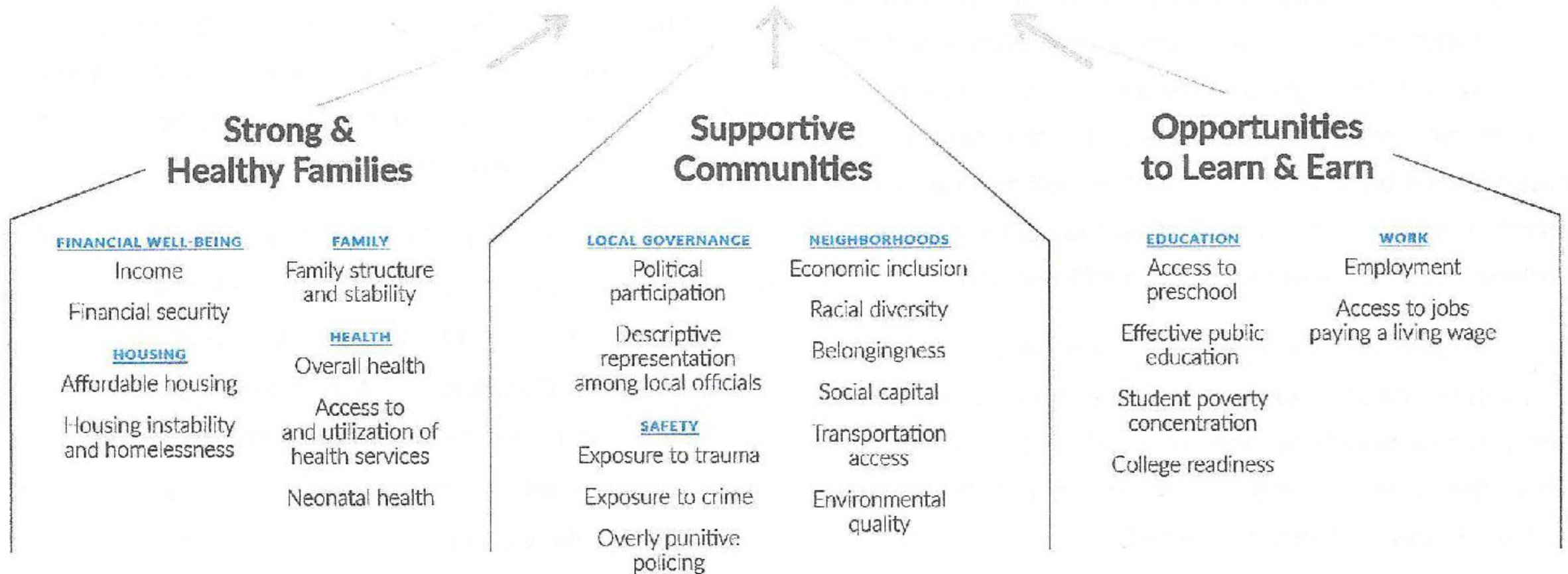
- ▶ **Economic Success:** Rising income and assets are widely recognized as essential to mobility from poverty
- ▶ **Power and autonomy:** Mobility also requires control over one's life, the ability to make choices, and the collective capacity to influence larger policies and actions that affect one's future
- ▶ **Being valued in the community:** Feeling the respect, dignity, and sense of belonging that come from contributing to one's community is an essential element of mobility from poverty.

A Framework for  
Boosting Mobility



# Three Key Drivers and the Metrics:

## Urban Institute



# Conclusions

- ▶ Brown County does notably excel or lag behind other parts of the state or country on most measures identified by the Urban Institute.
- ▶ Opportunity to learn and earn indicator measures: pre-college education measures exceed expectations across all districts in the greater Green Bay area.
- ▶ Local governance measure: while there is no objective data available, it does not appear that the composition of local government governing bodies and key elected officials have a mix of racial and ethnic diversity reflective of the local population. Voter turnout is typically higher than Wisconsin or the US, but follows the same pattern of higher turnout in presidential election years.

# Selected Myths re: Why International Comparisons Are Not Useful

- ▶ Less regulation leads to greater opportunities for upward mobility.
- ▶ The American Dream is a unique opportunity afforded Americans, and anyone who exerts the effort can succeed.
- ▶ The US cannot implement the social and economic policies seen in other industrialized nations because we are so diverse.
- ▶ The United States is already the most educated country based on the percent of persons age 25-64 who have completed a two, four-year degree or vocational program.



# Influencing Factors: International Comparisons

- Education
- Social Protection (Child care, parental leave)
- Technology Access & Broadband
- Health Care
- Labor Practices (wages, unions)
- Taxes

# International Comparisons

## ▶ Health care

- ▶ The **U.S** spends 16.9% of GDP on health care twice as much as the OECD average resulting in a life expectancy of 79.11 years, ranking 46<sup>th</sup> in the world
- ▶ **Switzerland** spends 12.2% of GDP with a life expectancy of 84.25 years, ranking 1<sup>st</sup> in the world

## ▶ Social Protections

- ▶ The **U.S.** provides up to twelve weeks of unpaid maternity leave; forty percent of female employees are not covered
- ▶ Of the 41 industrialized countries the **U.S.** is the only one that does not provide paid maternity leave, It ranks as 18<sup>th</sup> for raising children. **Denmark** ranks #1 and **Canada** #4.

## ▶ Education

- ▶ **U.S.** education policies are the responsibility of the state and local government. Funding ranges from \$22,366 per student (New York ) to \$6,953 per student ( Utah)
- ▶ The top ten countries in the Social Mobility Index have a national policy regarding education.

## ▶ Tech Access

- ▶ The **U.S** is the leader in technology with the creation of Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Google and others.
- ▶ Of the 193 countries reporting to the International Digital Economy and Society, **Denmark** is at the top of the digital list. A single digital key works across all the public and private sector.

# International Comparisons

## ► Labor

- The percent of union membership in the U.S. is 10.1%. U.S. income inequality has risen the highest among its **G7 peers**
- Union membership in Denmark is 66.5% and ranks as 1<sup>st</sup> on the Social Mobility Index.
- The **U.S** ranks **17<sup>th</sup>** on the Economic Freedom Index and **Denmark** ranks **8<sup>th</sup>**.
- U.S. law does not mandate vacation time. In Denmark five weeks of annual leave are provided
- In the U.S. GDP per capita (2019) is \$65,111; in Norway \$77,975 and Switzerland \$83,716

## ► Taxes and Wealth

Rank	Country	Median Wealth
23	Denmark	\$58,784
19	Norway	\$70,627
25	Finland	\$55,532
29	Sweden	\$41,582
4	Iceland	\$165,961
34	Netherlands	\$31,057
1	Switzerland	\$227,891
6	Belgium	\$117,093
15	Austria	\$94,070
5	Luxembourg	\$139,789
22	United States	\$65,111

Country	Highest Tax Rate	Tax base for maximum income tax rate 2020	Median Household Income
Denmark	66%	\$91,580	\$44,360
Norway	62%	\$107,457	\$51,489
Finland	71%	\$90,079	\$24,615
Sweden	76%	\$79,041	\$50,514
Iceland	59%	\$81,421	NA
Netherlands	59%	\$80,985	\$38,584
Switzerland	46%	\$979,587	\$37,466
Belgium	73%	\$48,539	\$26,206
Austria	65%	\$85,539	\$34,911
Luxembourg	59%	\$236,434	\$52,493
United States	47%	\$518,401	\$43,585

# Next Steps

- ▶ BACC moves forward with our current report—what is the approval process for signal team reports before dissemination??
- ▶ We convene our other signal team members to determine future interest in exploring specific aspects
- ▶ Judy dives deeper into Broadband as an essential infrastructure issue for upward mobility
- ▶ Heidi dives deeper into Urban Institute “exemplars” and works with Judy to see if there are international parallels