



Brookline Community Foundation

presentation to the

Brookline School Committee

Wednesday, September 13th, 2023



bcb



BROOKLINE **COMMUNITY**
FOUNDATION

welcome

SEPTEMBER 2023

about BCF

BCF's youth and
education work

engaged research

report: economic
inequality today

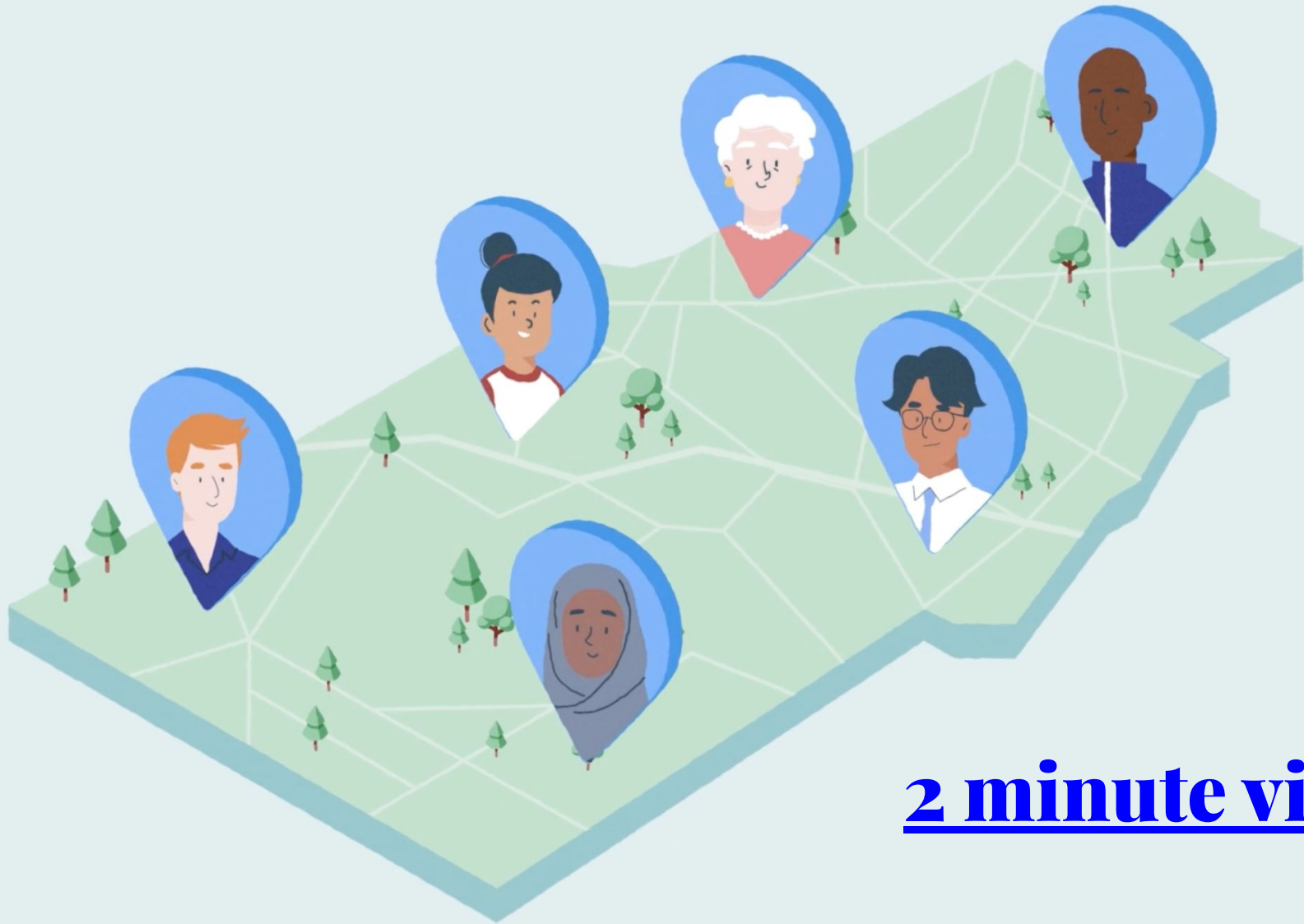
community
indicators
database

what comes next

questions &
discussion

AGENDA





2 minute video

BCF's philanthropic history

- **1878** — women become active in the Temperance movement in Massachusetts.
- **1905** — a group of women organized and incorporated the Brookline Friendly Society, which provided health and social services for Brookline residents.
- **1957** — the Brookline Friendly Society became the parent organization for Family Services of Brookline and Brookline Visiting Nurses Service.
- **1999** — the Brookline Friendly Society renamed itself the Brookline Community Fund and began offering small grants to the community.
- **2005** — the Brookline Community Fund renamed itself the Brookline Community Foundation to reflect its expanded mission and grantmaking.
- **2010** — BCF was recognized for complying with the National Standards for United States Community Foundations by the Community Foundations National Standards Board.



Health Center, 1943

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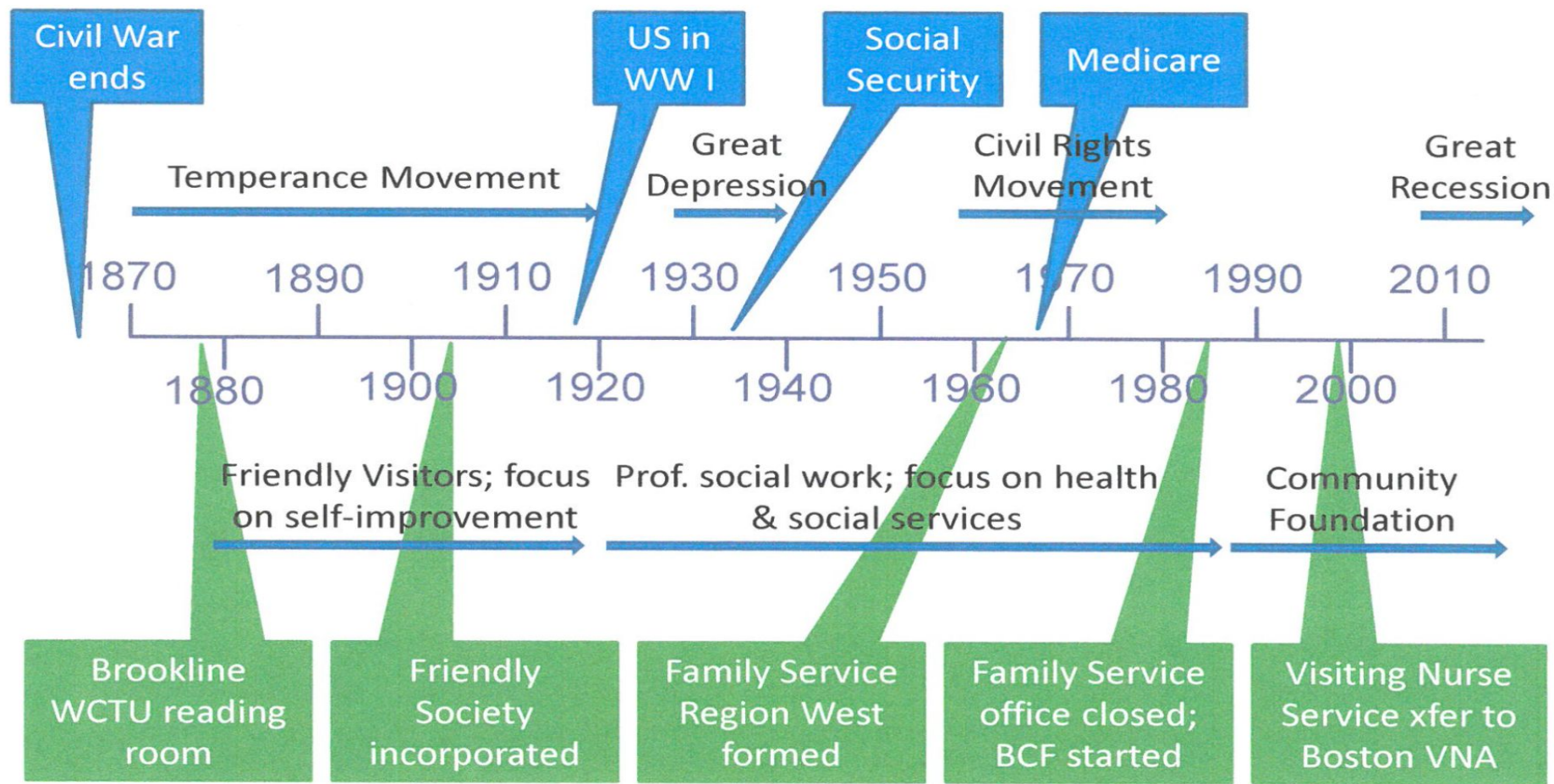
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Health Center, 1943

Brookline Friendly Society Timeline





| ABOUT BCF

vision

A better Brookline for all

mission

Brookline Community Foundation creates opportunity and promotes equity through the transformative power of giving

values

Lead by Listening | Anchored in Equity | Sustainable
Support | Community First



bef's areas of work

A person wearing a white jacket, a light-colored cap, and yellow protective gloves is using pruning shears to trim a rose bush. The background is a soft-focus garden with green foliage and some red roses.

1. philanthropic leadership

partnering with the community

investing in brookline

research & insights

A person is walking away from the camera on a crosswalk with rainbow-colored stripes (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple). The person is wearing a dark blue sleeveless shirt, dark shorts, and blue sneakers. A black backpack is on their back, and a pair of glasses is hanging from the top of it. The background is a bright, sunny day on a city street.

2022 by the numbers

841
donors

\$2,121,248
to support the Brookline
community through BCF's
grantmaking, partnerships &
capacity-building initiatives.

47
organizations,
community groups
& students
received support
through grants,
sponsorships &
scholarships

FY 2023 by the numbers

\$638,179

BCF Fund for Brookline
(Unrestricted)

\$80,273

Bcf Safety Net Fund

\$500,000

BCF ARPA Safety Net

\$93,323

BCF Scholarship Fund for
Brookline High School

\$41,531

BCF Opportunity &
Equity Fund

\$360,665

Youth Fund and Other
Funds



BCF Youth Fund Grants

*Brookline Youth Development grants are made to ensure **equal access to opportunities for all youth in Brookline** and specifically to promote activities that are inclusive and represent the diversity within the Brookline community.*

Since the Fund was established in 1999, the Brookline Youth Fund has awarded over **\$1,075,000** in grants to **47** different local organizations.

Recent Grantees include: Brookline Arts Center, Brookline Food Pantry, Brookline interactive Group, Brookline Recreation Department, Brookline Teen Center, Family ACCESS, LEAP Self-Defense, Organized Youth, Steps to Success



A person with a yellow backpack is walking away from the camera on a sidewalk. The sidewalk is paved with light-colored stones. There are trees and a brick building in the background.

BCF investments in educational programming since 2018

Since 2018, BCF has invested over [\\$1,380,000](#) through [90 grants](#) to [35 local partners](#) to in-school and out-of-school time educational programming.

Key Partners include: the Public Schools of Brookline, Brookline Asian American Family Network, Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP), Brookline Housing Authority, Brookline Interactive Group, Brookline Teen Center, Educators for Anti-Racism, Martin Trust Partnership in Education for Early Learners, Steps to Success, and more!





BCF Scholarship Fund for Brookline High School

-
- Total raised since 2016: **\$1,412,749**
- **141** total donors to the fund, **44** new donors in FY 23
- Total awarded to Brookline High School in 2023 by BCF: **\$181,700**



BCF & COVID RESPONSE

Partnership with the Town of Brookline

ARPA Community Engagement

Expanded Safety Net Grant Program

\$1.3M to support ~13K residents

bcf's engaged research

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BCF has long been at the forefront of Brookline-focused research – using our depth of local knowledge to catalyze conversations, drive collective action and inspire reinvestment

BCF research efforts have helped inspire and advance community conversations around some of the most pressing challenges and exciting opportunities facing the Brookline community:

catalyzing conversations & action

QUESTION: WHERE DO GAPS BETWEEN IMMEDIATE, URGENT NEEDS AND THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO FILL THEM EXIST?

- **ACTION:** *Expansion of the Safety Net Fund and increased assessment of community resources*

QUESTION: HOW IS POVERTY IMPACTING OUR NEIGHBORS?

- **ACTION:** *Refocus of BCF's strategy towards investing in efforts that reduce racial and economic inequities*

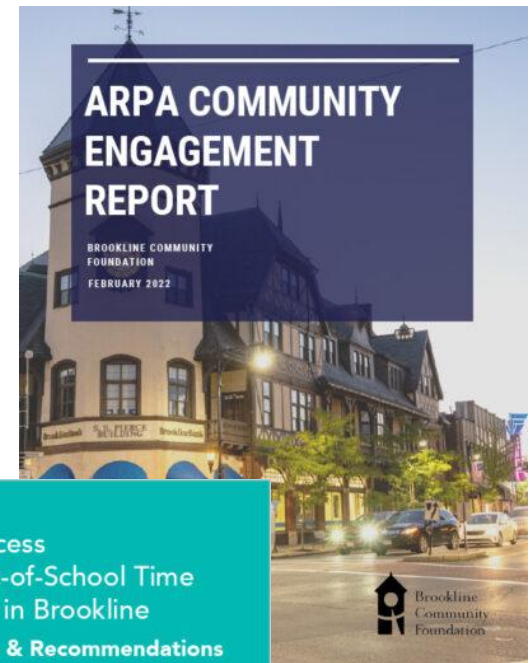
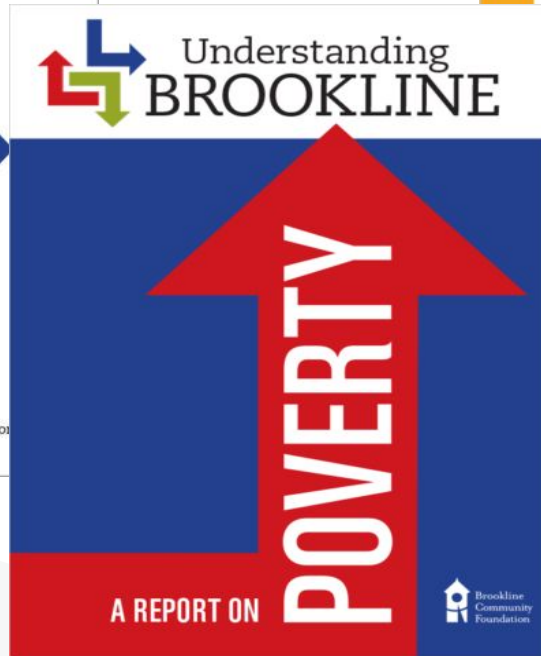
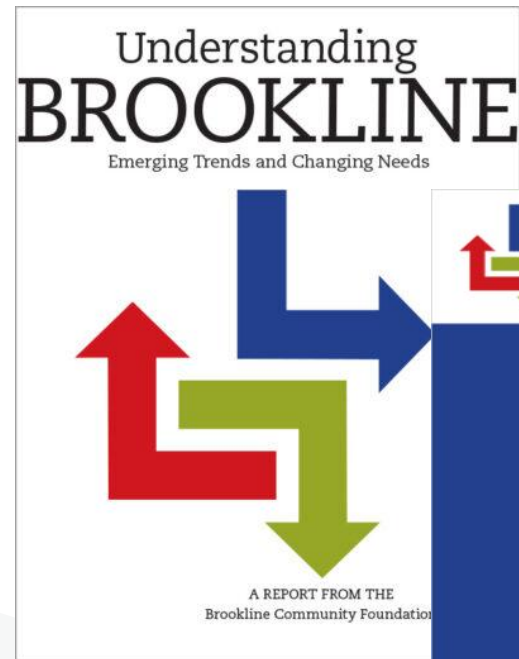
QUESTION: HOW CAN WE INVEST RESOURCES THAT ADDRESS RACIAL DISPARITIES AND INEQUITY IN BROOKLINE?

- **ACTION:** *Creation of the Racial Equity Grant Fund*

QUESTION: WHAT INVESTMENTS WOULD WE PRIORITIZE FOR ARPA FUNDING IF WE KNEW WHERE COMMUNITY MEMBERS SAW OPPORTUNITIES?

- **ACTION:** *Facilitation of Town-wide community engagement process*

research & insights





KEY FINDINGS ACROSS ALL ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS



Need to support public health response by: investing in public health departments; investing in public health infrastructure, and; investing in crisis-intervention services to support key impacted groups (older adults, youth, families living on low or limited income, and community members most impacted by inequities).



Need to invest in equity-focused services by: investing in programs that address the social determinants of health; increasing access to in-school support and out of school programs for youth; investing in building more affordable housing and enhancing existing public housing, and; investing in programs that promote healthy childhood environments.



Need to address negative economic impacts by: providing assistance to households, workers, and families, particularly from key impacted groups, and; providing support for nonprofits and the small business sectors in Brookline.



Need to provide premium pay to essential workers, particularly low- and moderate-income workers.



Need to invest in infrastructure by Improving broadband access and technology training to unserved or underserved households and key impacted groups.

Understanding Brookline

about BCF

BCF & HCCF history

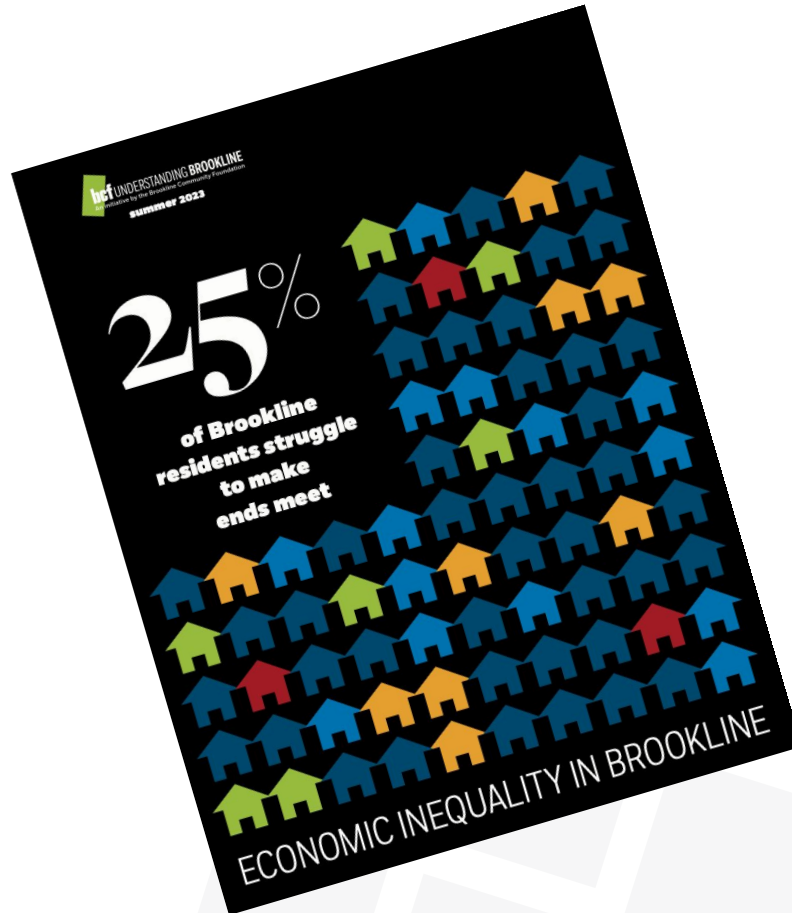
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Brookline is **growing.**
Brookline is **diversifying**
(in some ways)...

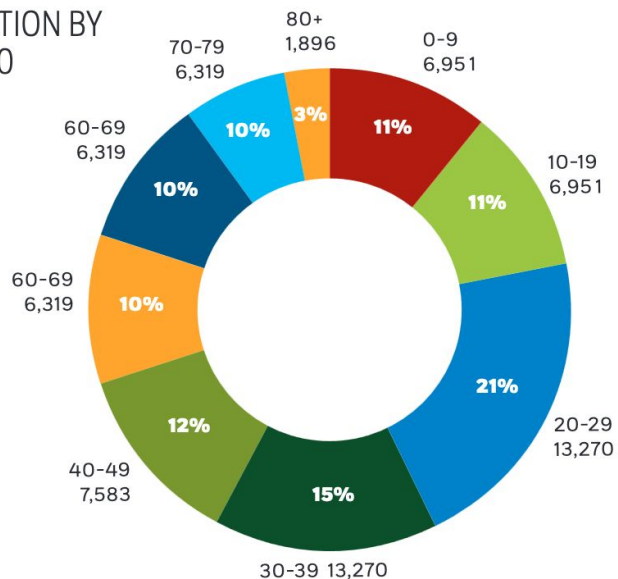
while becoming unaffordable
for many. How do we understand
today's reality to build a

**better
Brookline for
tomorrow?**

research highlights:

Brookline's population is growing and becoming more diverse

POPULATION BY
AGE 2020



30% of Brookline's population identifies as Black, Asian, Latiné, or multiracial

33% of residents above the age of 5 speak a language other than English at home

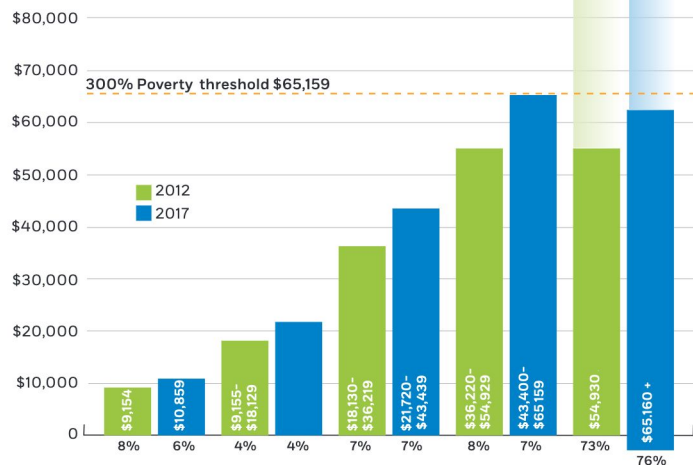
36.1% of Brookline's population sits at the furthest ends of the age spectrum

22% of Brookline's population is below the age of 19, and 23% are above the age of 60

research highlights:

The gap between those living in poverty and those with financial security is growing

POVERTY RATES IN BROOKLINE FOR
A THREE-PERSON HOUSEHOLD



At least **41%** of Brookline households make incomes below the living wage estimate for Norfolk County.

1 in 4 Brookline residents are financially vulnerable & economically insecure

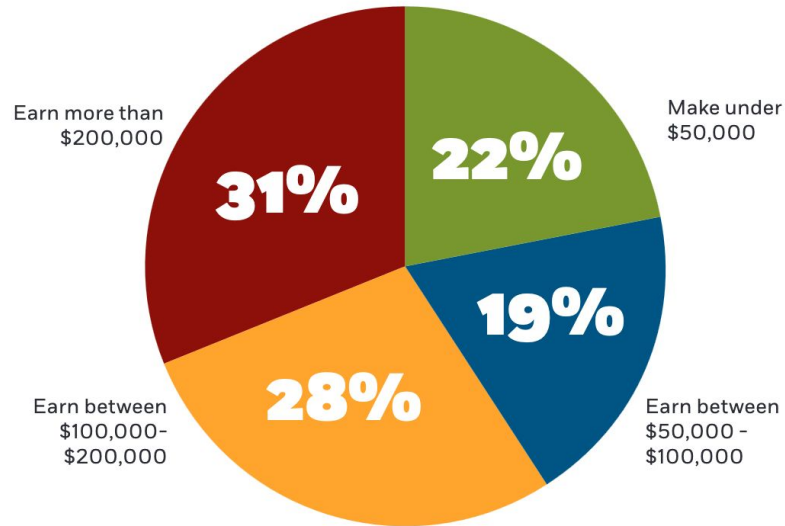
10.68% of adults over the age of 65 and **11.28%** of women live in poverty

***The federal poverty threshold for a household of 3 people is around \$21,000.
But in Norfolk County, the living wage estimate is nearly \$115,000.***

research highlights:

Poverty rates are falling,
but significant economic needs persist

MEDIAN INCOME LEVELS BY
HOUSEHOLDS IN BROOKLINE IN 2017



Median Household Income of \$122,356

\$50,000 is the difference in median household income between white and Black Brookline households

Childcare in Norfolk County is the **4th** most expensive in the entire country (\$26,409)

36% of Brookline residents—*nearly 25,000 people*—are housing burdened.

MEDIAN INCOME IN
BROOKLINE BY RACE



White



Black



Latino/a



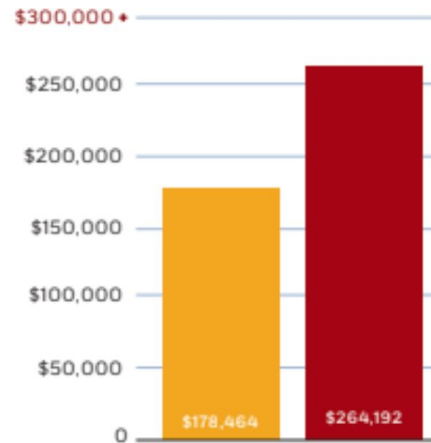
Asian

The rising costs of essentials is making it harder to build financial security

research highlights:

Incomes aren't keeping up with rising costs

HOUSING COSTS FOR RENTERS
VS. OWNERS HEADLINE



	RENT	OWN
Housing	\$2452	\$5945
Utilities including Phone and Internet	\$390 (Assuming heat included in rent)	\$469
Childcare	\$2167	\$2167
Transit	\$373	\$373
Food	\$1404	\$1404
Healthcare	\$650	\$650
Civic/Activities	\$400	\$400
Other	\$400	\$400
Total Monthly Expenses	\$8,236	\$11,808
Total Annual Expenses	\$98,832	\$141,696
Total Post-Tax Income Needed to Thrive in Brookline	\$178,464	\$264,192

To simply access housing, utilities, childcare, transportation, food, healthcare, and more—a renter with childcare needs would need to earn an estimated **\$98,832 annually (\$8,236/month)** to cover housing childcare costs, and other expenses without being financially burdened.

A homeowner with childcare needs who purchased their home in 2020 would need to earn **\$141,696 (\$11,808/month)** to afford the same.

Source: Pew Research [pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/06/08/key-fact](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/06/08/key-fact)

*The living wage estimate for Norfolk County has **DOUBLED** in only five years*

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Understanding Brookline database

Accessing **RELIABLE, ACCURATE
COMMUNITY DATA** gives us all the
information we need to assess gaps and
create new solutions. BCF's new open
database provides that resource to the
Brookline community



explore

50 indicators covering health, economics, education, resources, equity, and more side-by-side

combine

Key indicators and categories to bring big questions into focus

create

Custom dashboards to synthesize data, make connections and highlight trends



**Putting the power of real-time
community data
in everyone's hands**

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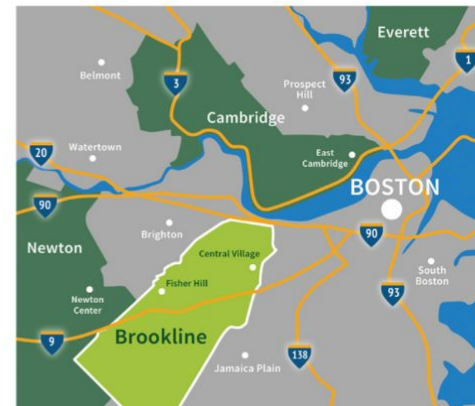
a community indicators project

Regional data for community action.

understanding brookline

Understanding Brookline is an equity-focused community indicators project with data and analysis spanning 6 topic areas and 50 individual indicators. Our aim is to provide information that the Brookline community can use to examine disparities across racial, ethnic and socioeconomic divides – and then work to eliminate disparities ingenium epulae ne tempor ne. faucibus pagus reprob.

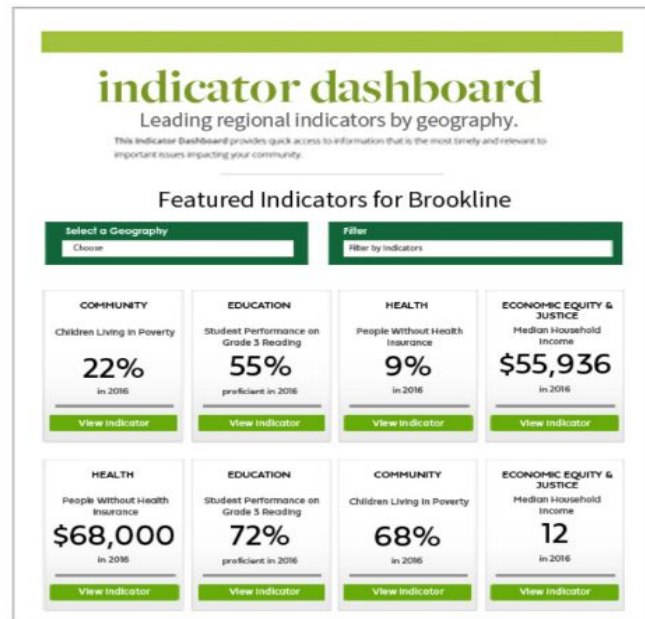
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create a dashboard

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■ CREATE A DASHBOARD



The Indicators

Community

Economic Equity
& Justice

Education

Essential Needs

Health

Racial Equity

With these new research tools as a platform, BCF will:

- ❑ **PUBLISH** both the report and database, focusing on facilitating community learnings and conversations in the next 5 months
- ❑ **BUILD** a research agenda based on initial insights and feedback
- ❑ **PARTNER** with community organizations, grantee partners, and community members to co-author issue briefs and new research offerings
- ❑ **SUSTAIN** ongoing Brookline-focused research to drive ongoing engagement, conversations, and convenings in our community to inspire collective actions and reinvestment

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Questions for you

HOW can we nurture the diversity and vibrancy of our community in a time of rising costs and income disparity?

HOW do we increase the capacity of our most in-demand resources and extend benefits to all those who need them?

HOW do we build on the strengths of Brookline's civic infrastructure to address the most persistent and newly emerging needs of Brookline residents?

WHAT creative solutions and new or strengthened collaborations can help us make Brookline a truly great place to live for all residents?

JOIN THE
CONVERSATION

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Questions



bcb

BROOKLINE **COMMUNITY**
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FOR
JOINING
thanks