Advancing education and child development in Opportunity Zones

Decades-long divestment from the nation’s most distressed communities has isolated millions of talented individuals in pockets of poverty that prevent them from realizing their potential.

Advancing child development and education in Opportunity Zones provides strategies for policymakers, funders, entrepreneurs, investors, and community groups to create generational impact by unleashing the potential of Opportunity Zones to meet the holistic needs of low-income children and young adults.

More than

7.5 million children live in Opportunity Zones; 78% attend K-12 school.

Public schools in Opportunity Zones have a majority-minority student body. Outside of zones, half of the students attending public schools are white.

More than 6% of older teens living in Opportunity Zones are not enrolled in high school. Adults living in Opportunity Zones are more likely to lack a high school diploma than have a four-year college degree.

On average, 22% of children that live in Opportunity Zones do not have access to a computer with broadband internet.

9 out of 10 Opportunity Zones lack high-quality schools and childcare, safe places for children to live and play, and adequate economic opportunity.

37,532 public schools and 4,052 charter schools are located in an Opportunity Zone or neighboring census tract.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Child Opportunity Index; PolicyMap; National Center for Education Statistics and National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

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