If the Poverty Rate for Kids of Color Were as Low as That for White Kids, 977,000 Fewer Kids Would be in Poverty

Number of California Children in Poverty, 2014-2016

- Children of color in California are more likely to live in poverty. 31% of Latino children, 28% of black children, and 14% of other children of color live in poverty, versus 12% of white children. If the poverty rate for kids of color were as low as that of white children, 977,000 (47%) fewer kids would be impoverished.

- The legacy of discriminatory policies means children of color face opportunity gaps today. For example, due to discriminatory housing policies of the past, Latino and black children are far more likely to live where poverty is concentrated and access to building blocks of opportunity, such as good schools and jobs, is limited.

- Our collective future would be brighter if all children had the chance to reach their potential. Promising approaches to helping undo the legacy of inequity include increasing CalWORKs grants, boosting funding for early care and education, investing in distressed areas, and increasing access to housing in better neighborhoods.

Note: Analysis is based on the Supplemental Poverty Measure. Racial and ethnic groups are mutually exclusive. Due to data limitations, children who were not identified as white, black, or Latino were grouped into an "other" category. Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data.