

Presentation given by  
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End Hunger Durham  
to the 2018 OLLI at Duke Food Insecurity in Durham Class



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# Durham Farm Food Network



**DURHAM**  
FARM AND FOOD NETWORK

End Hunger Durham is the  
Food Security/Food Justice Action  
Circle

# Approach

- **Listen**
- **Link**
- **Collaborate**
- **Advocate**

# Hunger vs. Food Insecurity

- Hunger is an individual-level physiological condition that may result from *food insecurity*.
- Food insecurity is a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate *food*. (Divided into “low food security” and “very low food security.”)

# Food Security

Reliable, consistent access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally relevant food options.

# 3 numbers for N.C.

- 2: Second in the country for hunger among seniors
- 10: Tenth hungriest state overall
- 15: 15% of the population is food insecure.

# Durham

- 50,830 people food insecure (17.3%)
- 7,000 older adults are food insecure
- 12,780 children <18 are food insecure (24.7%)

66% of children on reduced or free school lunch

# What are the Causes?

- What are:
- What are not:



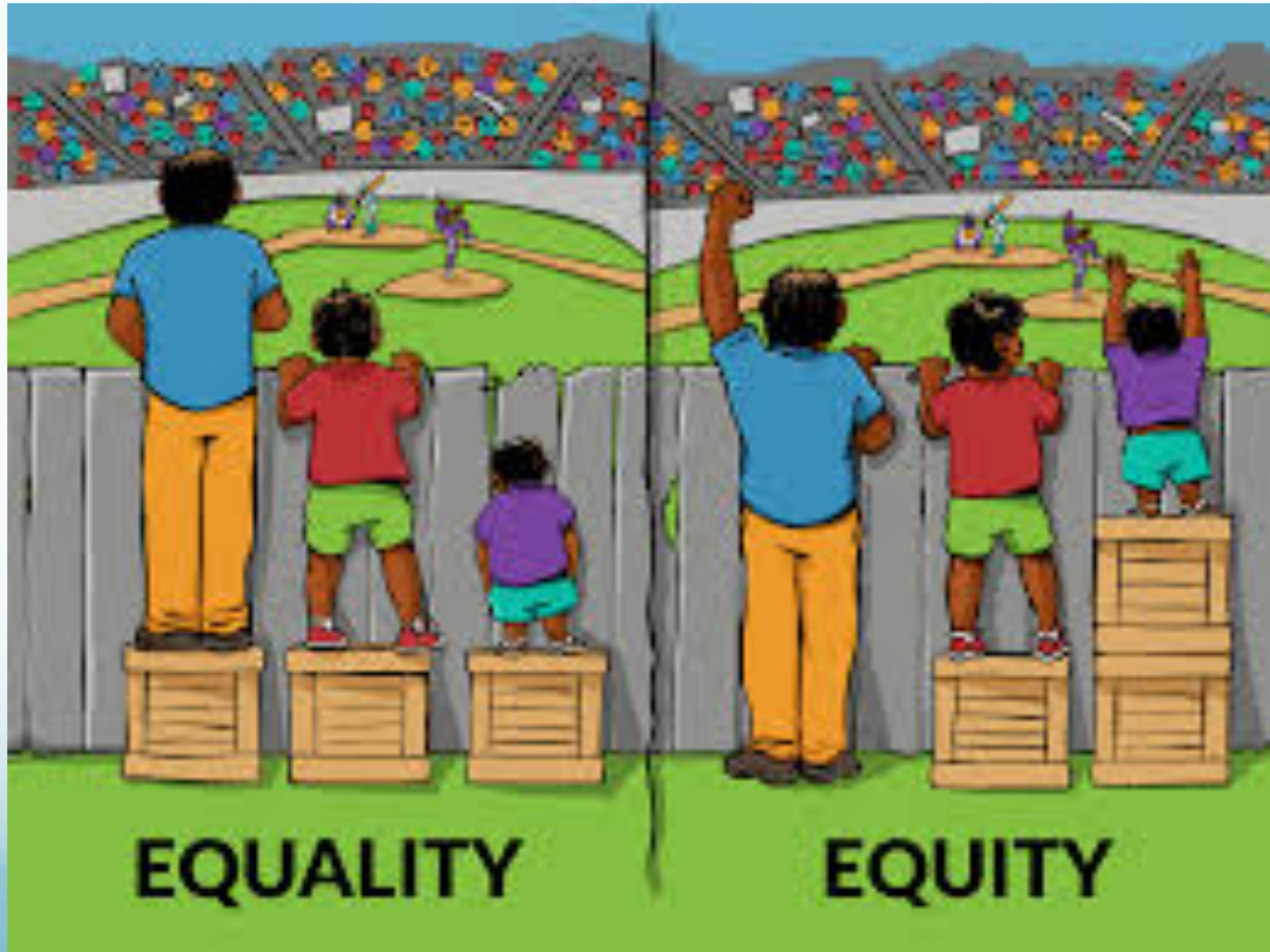
# Seven causes of Poverty & Inequality

- 1. Racism**
- 2. Low Wages**
- 3. Mass Incarceration**
- 4. Gentrification- an affordable housing crisis**
- 5. Tax Restructuring**
- 6. Disenfranchisement**
- 7. Cuts to the Safety Net**

# #1 Racism



# Recovering from racism



## #2 Low wage jobs



# Why wages remain low

- Congress refuses to raise the Minimum Wage: \$7.25/ hour since 2009:
- Unions declined: workers lost collective bargaining.
- No pressure on companies to raise wages, but pressure to pay shareholders and CEOs.
- Technological change: computerization and robots
- Globalization: foreign-produced goods are cheaper, production moved overseas

# #3 Mass Incarceration

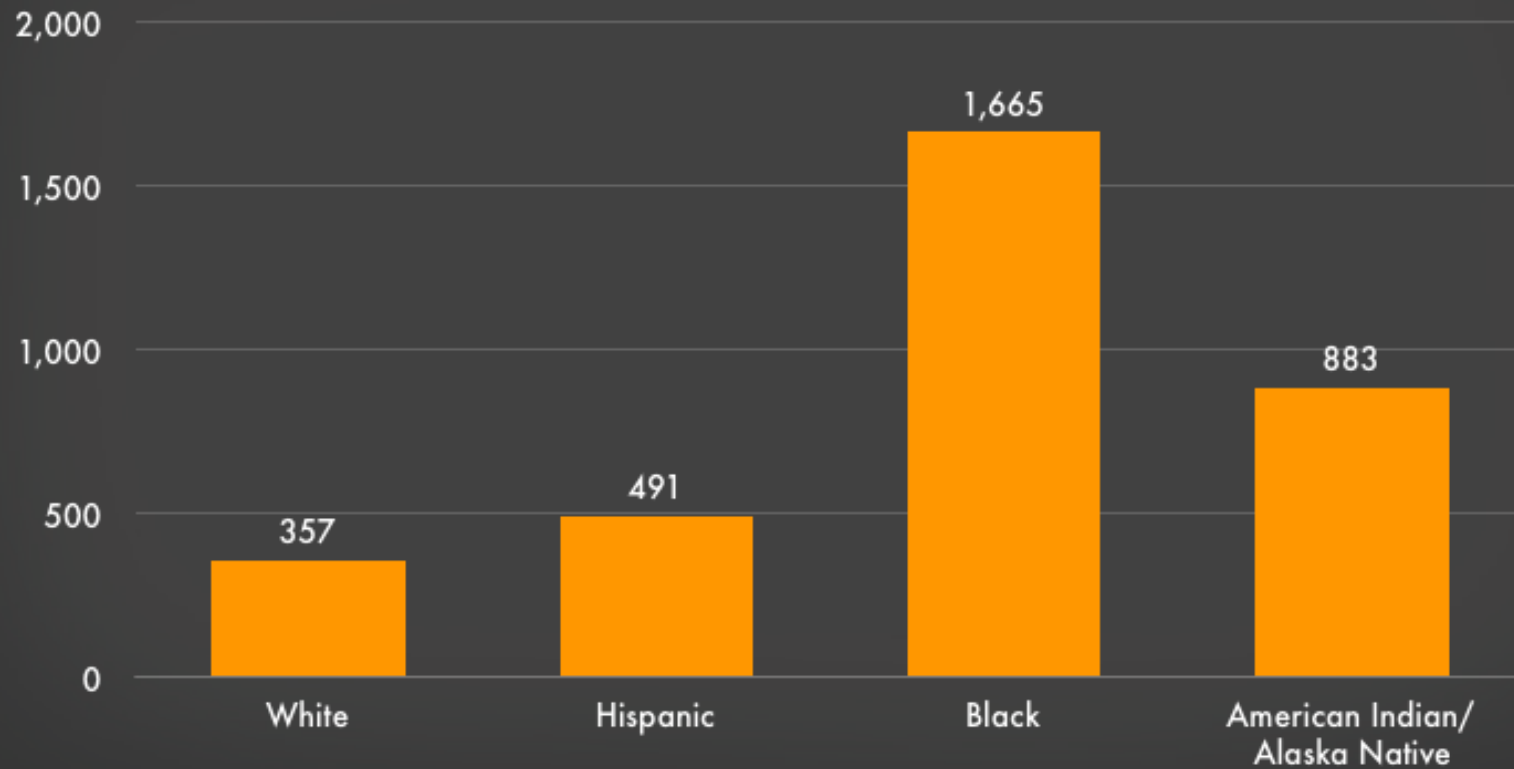


# Racialized Criminal Justice

- In 12 states, >half of prison population is black
- African Am 5-10X more likely to be incarcerated than whites b/c they are stopped, ticketed, & arrested at higher rates.
- Hispanics are 3X more likely to be incarcerated than whites for the same offense.
- Blacks are 6X more likely—for the same offense!

# NORTH CAROLINA INCARCERATION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2010

(Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in that racial/ethnic group)





# Contributing factors

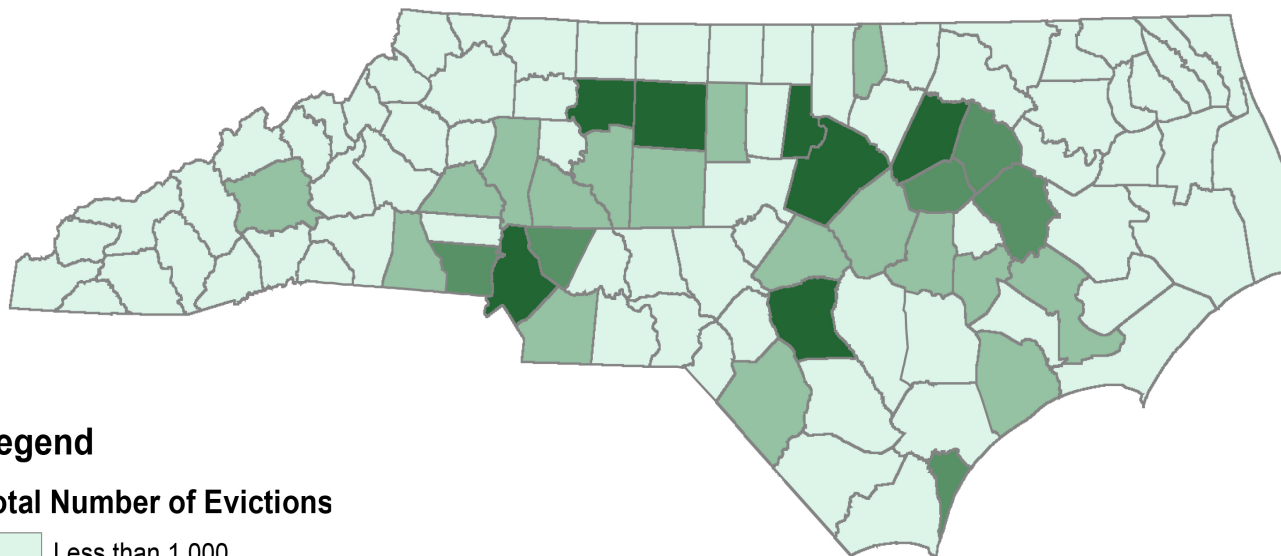
- **Over-policing:** mainly in low income communities of color
- **Bail Bond system:** can't afford bail so stay in jail.
- **Longer Sentences:** often mandatory--judges have no discretion
- **Ongoing Restrictions After Release:** not eligible for SNAP, housing vouchers and discrimination in jobs.
- **Racism and unconscious bias.**

# #4 Gentrification Unaffordable Housing





## Evictions destabilize families, communities. Total Evictions by County



### Legend

#### Total Number of Evictions

- Less than 1,000
- 1,001 to 2,500
- 2,501 to 5,000
- 5,001 or more

Source: NC Administration of the Courts, 2016

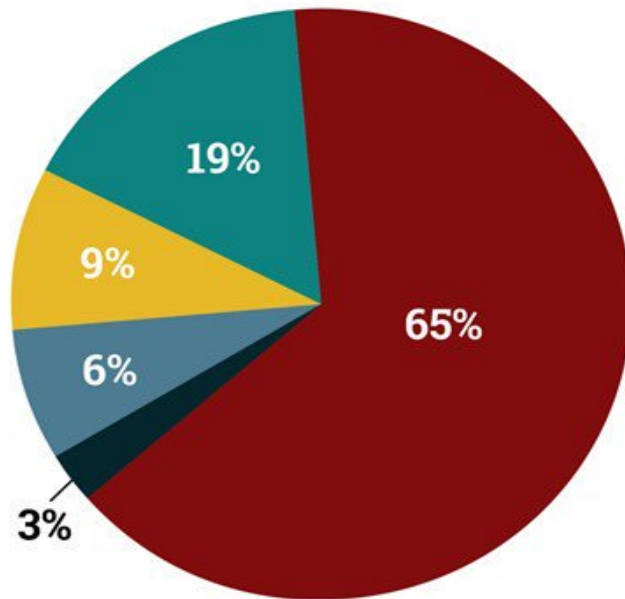
@ncbudgetandtax

# #5 Tax Restructuring

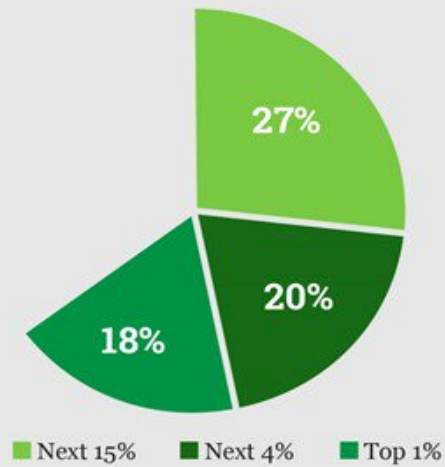


Top 1% nationwide have received greatest share of tax cuts since 2000, more than bottom 60 percent combined

Share of Tax Cut by Income Group, 2018



The top 20 percent receive nearly two-thirds of tax cuts.



■ Poorest 20%   ■ Second 20%   ■ Middle 20%   ■ Fourth 20%   ■ Richest 20%

@ncbudgetandtax @ncjustice

Source: ITEP, 2018, [Federal Tax Cuts in the Bush, Obama, and Trump Years](#)

# #6 Disenfranchisement



# #7 Cuts to the Safety Net

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—formerly food stamps, and other nutrition programs
- Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and ACA
- Social Security (including disability)
- Housing vouchers like Section 8
- Earned Income Tax Credit (for working poor)

# **WHAT'S BEING DONE ABOUT IT?**

Feeding the Need and  
Shortening the Line



Patti Perkinson



# Six approaches to ending hunger

1. **Food Distribution:** Food Pantries, Meals on Wheels
2. **Centers to foster empowerment:** e.g. EDCI, UMD, CAARE
3. **Policy Advocacy:** Safety net (e.g. SNAP) or structural
4. **Food Justice/Food System:** Social Movements and Community Organizing
5. **Prioritize Vulnerable Populations:** food in context
6. **Improve Access to Resources** (food, jobs, healthcare, affordable housing, financial services etc.)

# #1 Food distribution



# What all charities cover

**ONE** IN 20



# #2 Centers to Foster Empowerment

- Food used as a means to build healthier, more connected, and more self-reliant communities.
- Empowers community members to become engaged citizens
- Food is part of a spectrum of services along with: gardens, after-school care, housing, job support

**The Stop** in Toronto is a model.

- Durham examples: TROSA, EDCI, UMD, or CAARE

# #3 Policy Advocacy



# Advocate for SNAP

- **32,787 individuals receive SNAP in Durham County (nearly 11% of Durham's population)**
- **SNAP benefits pumped nearly \$2.2 billion into North Carolina's economy in 2016.**
- **For every \$1 billion dollars increase in SNAP, up to 17,000 jobs are created.**
- **SNAP kept 338,000 people per year out of poverty in N.C. between 2009 and 2012.**

# #4 Food Justice

- **Access to healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate food** is a human right: government and industry must be held accountable.
- **Food sovereignty:** community control over land, water, and markets; increase political power of low-income people of color.
- **Living wages for all food system workers:** farmers, farmworkers, restaurant, food service, processing plants.

# #5 Serve vulnerable populations

- Seniors (MOW and EHD)
- Children (Schools, EDCl, Boys & Girls club)
- Veterans and Disabled (CAARE, City of Durham)
- Mentally Ill (Behavioral Alliance, Fred Foundation)
- People in Recovery (TROSAs, CAARE)
- Formerly Incarcerated (Step Up, RCNVD, see [DurhamCares.org](http://DurhamCares.org))
- College Students (campus pantries)
- Homeless (UMD, Families Moving Forward, Housing for New Hope)



# School and Summer meals



# Vulnerable older adults

- Low-income and poverty
- No savings or pensions
- Inadequate services, programs and funding



# #6 Improve Access to Economic Resources

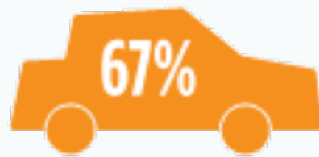
## Information is Power

- Individualized resource referral.
- Connection to service navigators for SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, and Medicare enrollment.
- Referrals to free or low cost sources of food, medical and dental care, senior services, housing, financial assistance, job training and placement and more.

# Painful tradeoffs



**HAD TO CHOOSE  
BETWEEN FOOD  
AND UTILITIES**



**HAD TO CHOOSE  
BETWEEN FOOD  
AND TRANSPORTATION**



**HAD TO CHOOSE  
BETWEEN FOOD  
AND MEDICAL CARE**



**HAD TO CHOOSE  
BETWEEN FOOD  
AND HOUSING**



**HAD TO CHOOSE  
BETWEEN FOOD  
AND EDUCATION**

# The Information Station

A project of End Hunger Durham



# What about Food Waste?

- 40% of food is wasted
- food excess or food recovery.
- Food donations are protected and encouraged by Good Samaritan laws and tax deductions.
- A large part of the food distributed in pantries comes from retail stores, gleaned food, restaurant donations.

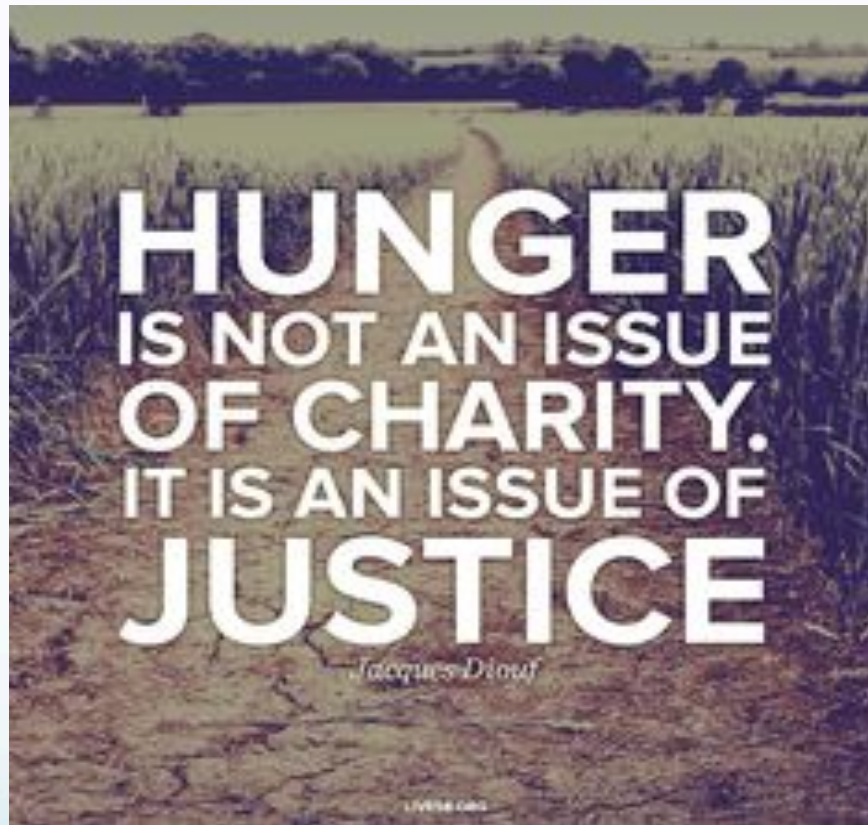
# What about food deserts?



# Deserts, swamps, mirages

- Food Deserts: distance is only one problem.
- Food Swamps: neighborhoods full of fast food joints and corner stores
- Food Mirages: Where food stores are close but too expensive.





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