



A SHARED CHALLENGE

ORANGE COUNTY'S DEEPENING CRISIS OF WORKING POVERTY
AND THE MOVEMENT TO CHANGE IT



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Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are a member of the Partnership for Working Families national network.

BEHIND THE ORANGE CURTAIN

In the midst of profound demographic change, a deepening crisis of working poverty threatens Orange County's stability and affects everyone who lives or works here:

DECLINING INCOMES in our largest cities.

POVERTY JOBS in our growth industries.

A HOUSING CRISIS for working families.

Each sector of society – faith, labor, business, academia, community, government – must take action to address this shared challenge.

Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD) was founded to organize a concerted response.

PROFOUND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

Orange County is currently the third largest county in California by population and is made up of 34 cities, eight of which did not exist 20 years ago.

Over the past two decades, the well-established cities of north central Orange County have become increasingly diverse and working class as white, middle class residents have migrated to newly built residential communities in the county's southern and eastern fringes.

Orange County Population, 2000 (U.S. Census)

	Total	%Latino	%A/PI	%Black	%White
Orange County	2,846,289	30.8	13.8	1.5	51.3
Anaheim	328,014	46.8	12.3	2.4	35.9
Garden Grove	165,196	32.5	31.4	1.1	32.5
Santa Ana	337,977	76.1	9.0	1.3	12.4

Orange County Population Growth, 1990–2000 (U.S. Census)

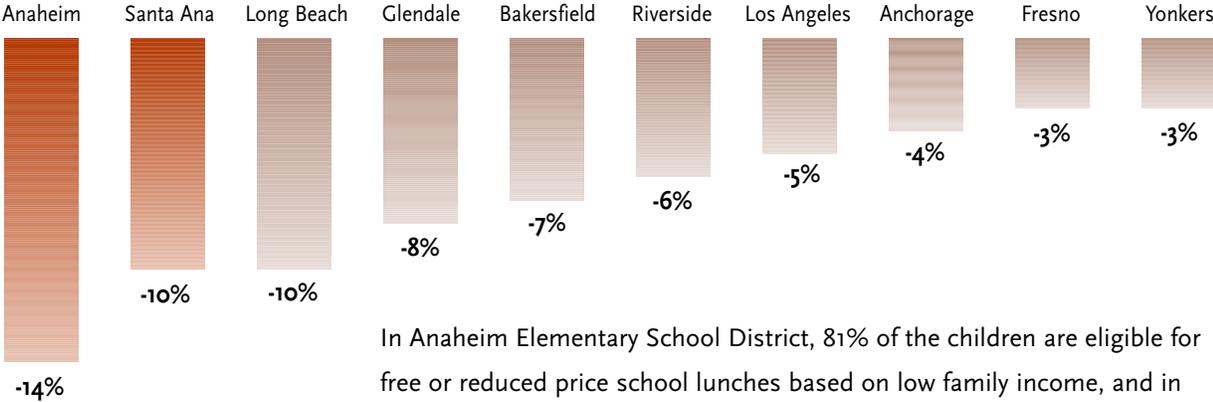
	Total	Latino	A/PI	Black	White
Orange County	+18.1%	+55.0%	+62.8%	+8.9%	-6.1%
Anaheim	+23.1%	+83.1%	+66.8%	+26.0%	-22.0%
Garden Grove	+15.5%	+59.6%	+81.5%	-3.4%	-31.3%
Santa Ana	+15.1%	+34.3%	+13.2%	-33.2%	-38.2%

Today, Anaheim and Santa Ana are among the largest U.S. cities.

Santa Ana is about the same size as St. Louis and more densely populated than Los Angeles. It recently became the largest U.S. municipality to elect an all-Latino city council. Anaheim, now larger and more diverse than Cincinnati or Pittsburgh, is home to Disneyland, two professional sports teams, and the largest convention center on the West Coast. Orange County also has the largest population of Vietnamese outside of Vietnam as well as growing Arab and Muslim communities.

DECLINING INCOMES

CEOs for Cities, a cross-sector network of urban leaders, studied income growth in the 100 largest U.S. cities from 1990 to 2000. Anaheim ranked lowest and suffered a 14% income decline over that period. Santa Ana ranked second lowest with a 10% income decline.

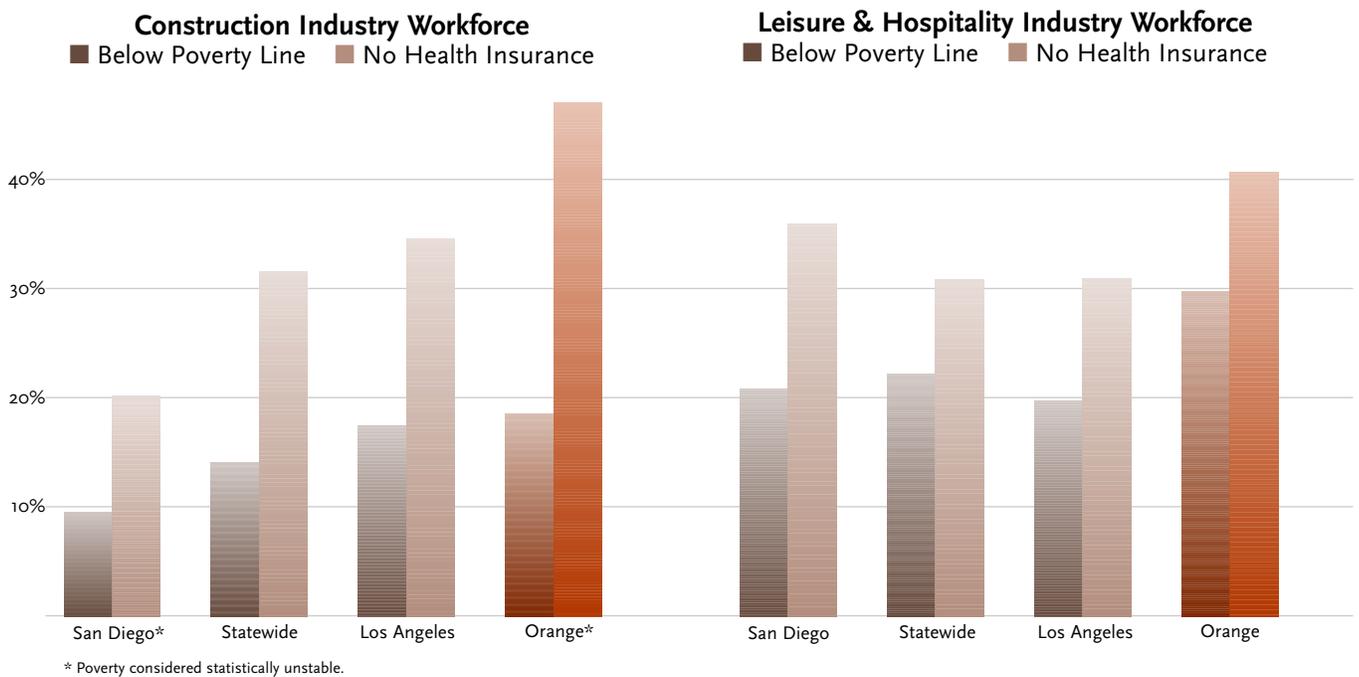


In Anaheim Elementary School District, 81% of the children are eligible for free or reduced price school lunches based on low family income, and in Santa Ana Unified, 75% of the children are eligible for these programs. By this measure of poverty, the children of Anaheim and Santa Ana are worse off than children anywhere else in Orange County and in much of California.

POVERTY JOBS IN OUR GROWTH INDUSTRIES

According to the California Employment Development Department, Construction and Leisure/Hospitality will be Orange County's two fastest growing industries in terms of employment from 2002 to 2012. Construction is projected to grow 40% and Leisure/Hospitality 30% over the period.

From 2003 survey data collected by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, we know that a large proportion of workers in these industries go without any health insurance or earn wages that put them below the Federal Poverty Level. By these criteria, Orange County's workers in these industries are worse off than their counterparts in San Diego and Los Angeles Counties.



“We’re not animals. We are human beings, we are people. And the only thing we need is to work and that they pay us for our work and not abuse us.

“Right now, what I’m paying for my apartment is \$1200 a month, plus expenses, bills, everything else, and there are a lot of times I tell myself, ‘I’m either out on the street or I go to the doctor.’ What do I do?

“I asked about family health insurance, and they told me it would cost \$380 a month. It’s because my husband is diabetic. If I had to pay that, I’d be living under the mango tree outside my house.”

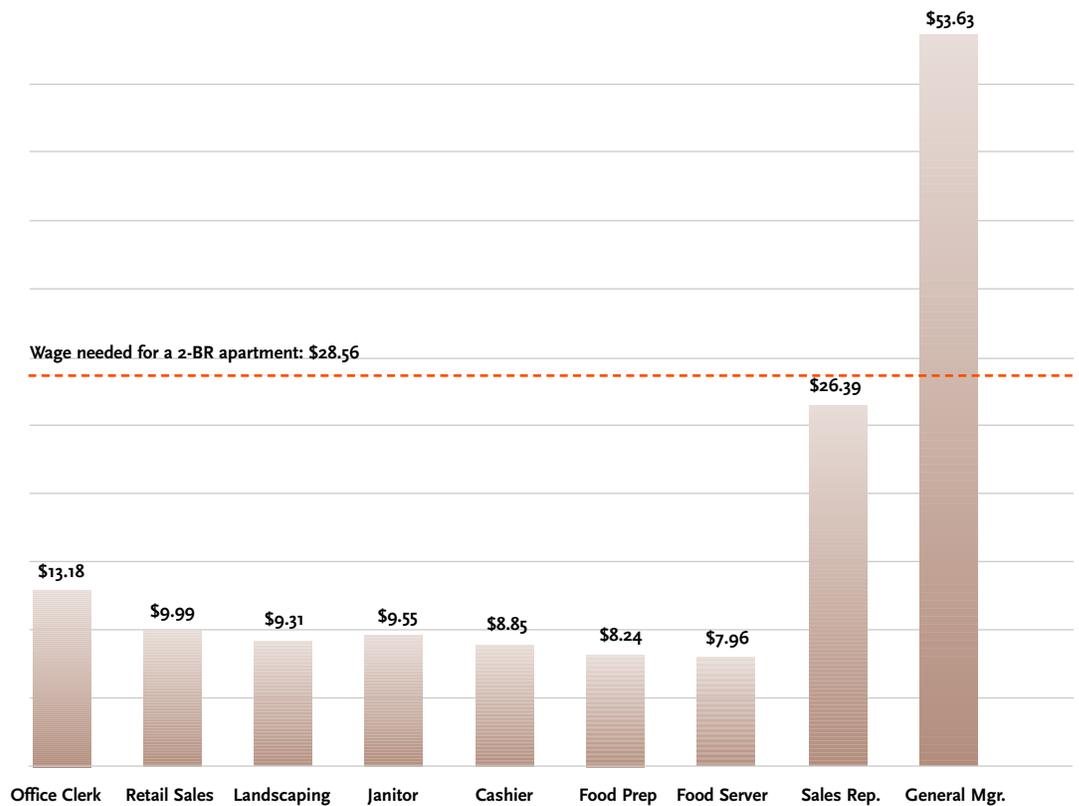
— Evangelina Rios, Hotel Housekeeper



A HOUSING CRISIS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

In 2006, the hourly wage required to afford a two-bedroom apartment was \$28.56, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, higher than anywhere else in California outside the San Francisco Bay Area.

Based on data from the Employment Development Department, in seven of our top ten occupations with the most projected job openings, even a two-bedroom apartment is out of reach for a typical mother and father working full time. A single parent with one job simply doesn't earn enough.



“Right now I have three generations living in my house because we can’t afford to live by ourselves. So I have my mom, I have my brother, I have me, and I have my son. We have three paychecks, and we live paycheck to paycheck trying just to survive.

“When it was just me and my son, one of my paychecks alone was just daycare. I had to have roommates, lots of roommates at one point. It was a two-bedroom apartment, and there were six of us there.

“I have \$25 in my account to last the next two weeks because I just paid rent. Twenty-five dollars doesn’t get you very far.”

— Nancy Stengel, Medical Assistant



THE NEED FOR ACCOUNTABLE DEVELOPMENT

In Orange County, the epicenter of the modern American conservative movement, laissez-faire economic development policies and institutionalized anti-immigrant sentiment have long served to exclude working families from the political process.

OUR SHARED CHALLENGE. Local economic development policies no longer address important community needs, such as accessible housing opportunities for working families, jobs that sustain family life and values, parks and open space in densely populated neighborhoods, and affordable child care options.

OCCORD'S ANSWER. Our accountable development program – a comprehensive campaign incorporating research, organizing and advocacy – is designed to change the course of local economic development and finally address Orange County's deepening crisis of working poverty, starting in Anaheim. We seek **COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS** for development projects that involve direct government subsidy or investment as well as **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS** covering private sector projects that benefit from indirect government incentives.

ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER

As a connector and coalition builder, OCCORD occupies a unique position among organizations that seek to empower Orange County's working families. In our first year of operation, we convened and sustained a coalition – unprecedented in Orange County – of more than two dozen community organizations, unions, small businesses, public policy advocates and faith-based groups to work on accountable development initiatives. OCCORD is creating a model for community-centered economic development in our region, bringing workers and residents into the political process, and building power for change.

Orange County Register

May 6, 2007

Developers Feel Pressure in Anaheim

“A new coalition of unions, faith-based groups, and community organizations is pressuring developers to build low-cost homes and pay sufficient wages at a proposed complex next to Angel Stadium.”

Los Angeles Times

February 21, 2007

Coalition Seeks Housing, Wage Standards for Anaheim Development

“Twenty groups and labor unions unite to compel builders in sports district to pay a ‘living wage’ and build low-cost housing and child care facilities.”



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