WHAT IS POVERTY LEVEL?
Each year, the Department of Health and Human Services sets federal poverty guidelines, often referred to as federal poverty level. These guidelines use annual household income to determine poverty status and income eligibility for certain federal programs. Income thresholds vary based on the number of people in a household.

In Minnesota, a family of 3 is considered to live below the poverty guideline with an annual income of $21,960 or less. For a family of 4, the poverty guideline is $26,500.

1 IN 10 PEOPLE ARE LIVING BELOW POVERTY GUIDELINES
In Hennepin County, the poverty rate is about 10%. That means roughly 120,000 people are living below poverty guidelines. 33,000 of those people are under 18 years old, and over 64,000 identify as women.

RACE AND POVERTY
The majority of people living below poverty level in Hennepin County—over 62%—identify as Black or African American, Asian, Hispanic or Latinx, American Indian and Alaska Native, or two or more races. This is a staggering percentage when one considers that people who identify as Black or African American, Asian, Hispanic or Latinx, American Indian and Alaska Native, or two or more races make up 32% of the total Hennepin County population.

EDUCATION AND POVERTY
Nearly 28% of people living in poverty have not attained a high school diploma or equivalent education level. This has significant ramifications for employment options, which then affects income level.