LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN SENIORS
The Mission

Our Model is Designed to Create a Just and Inclusive Society Where ALL People and Communities Have the Opportunity to Succeed
OVERVIEW

• What is Opportunity or Vulnerability Mapping?
• Seniors & Vulnerability
• Challenges Particular to African American Seniors
What is Opportunity or Vulnerability Mapping?
LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN SENIORS

In 2003, Kirwan’s first Executive Director

**john a. powell**

Publishes the article

‘**Opportunity-Based Housing**’ that lays the groundwork for Opportunity Mapping
In his argument, powell links housing to opportunity

“The creation and preservation of affordable housing must be deliberately and intelligently connected on a regional scale to high-performing schools, sustaining employment, necessary transportation infrastructure, childcare, and institutions that facilitate civic and political activity.”
A stakeholder asks, “Is there Vulnerability in *my* community?”
Kirwan Institute works with the stakeholder,

To identify data indicators to assess vulnerability and opportunity.
Kirwan Institute
Seeks and finds the *data*. 
Kirwan Institute Collects and Cleans the *data* to create *indicators*.
Kirwan Institute

Normalizes the *data*. 
Why This Is Important
Meeting the challenges of an aging population with success

FINDINGS REPORT
Age-Friendly Columbus

February 2017
www.agefriendlycolumbus.org

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN SENIORS
Seniors & Vulnerability
Senior Population Growth

Franklin County: % of Population Age 65+

The Franklin County Senior Population Will Nearly Double by 2040
More Seniors and Fewer Workers
Ratio of Working Age Population to Retirement Age Population for Franklin County
Diversifying Senior Population

Franklin County Demographic Shifts

- Total Population: % Non-White
  - 1990: 18.5%
  - 2012: 32.7%

- Seniors: % Non-White
  - 1990: 13.0%
  - 2012: 19.7%
Where Are Our Seniors?
Senior Population Density

Seniors Per Square Mile

- High Density of Seniors (534–1283)
- Moderate Density of Seniors (234–533)
- Low Density of Seniors (0–233)
Who Are The Most Vulnerable Older Adults?

- Non-Whites
- In Poverty
- Lives Alone
- Multiple Disabilities
- No Vehicle
- Foreign-Born
- Older Age (85+)

- Renters
- Duel-Eligible (Medicaid/Medicare)
- Housing Cost-Burdened
- No High School Diploma
- English as a Second Language
Where Are Our Most Vulnerable Seniors?

Vulnerability Index

- High Vulnerability Seniors
- Moderate Vulnerability Seniors
- Low Vulnerability Seniors
LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN SENIORS

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
KIRWAN INSTITUTE FOR THE
STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN SENIORS

2014
LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN SENIORS

THE Ohio State University
KIRWAN INSTITUTE FOR THE
STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN SENIORS
LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN SENIORS

2017

Clintonville

Linden

PACT

Hilltop

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
KIRWAN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY

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LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN SENIORS
Key Needs for ALL Franklin County Seniors

- Senior Connections and Access
- System Navigation
- Provider Coordination
Challenges African American Seniors Face
African American Seniors
Have substantially less *household wealth* than their white counterparts.
African Americans Are…
46% Less Likely to Own a Home
Have Homes Valued at 55% Less
Live in Homes 4.5 Years Older
African American Seniors have substantially less personal wealth than their white counterparts.
African Americans Are…
42% Less Likely to have a traditional retirement
29% More likely to rely exclusively on Social Security
African American Seniors
Have substantially less opportunity to build wealth than their white counterparts.
African Americans …
Earn 58% or 79% less than whites (depending on your dataset)
Face numerous challenges such as transportation, housing, health, and community service access.
41% Face Extreme or Moderate Housing Cost-Burden
Nine Charts about Wealth Inequality in America (Updated)

Why hasn’t wealth inequality improved over the past 50 years? And why, in particular, has the racial wealth gap not closed? These nine charts illustrate how income inequality, earnings gaps, homeownership rates, retirement savings, student loan debt, and lopsided asset-building subsidies have contributed to these growing wealth disparities.

This story was updated with new data on October 5, 2017.

1 Wealth inequality is growing

Average wealth has increased over the past 50 years, but it has not grown equally for all groups. Between 1963 and 2016:

- families near the bottom of the wealth distribution have not.


Click and drag to zoom.
New Lessons: 
We need to communicate with African American Seniors differently.
New Lessons:
It's not too late to address persistent wealth gaps by acting now.
New Lessons: Build *community* through investments that shore up the middle.
THANK YOU!

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The Ohio State University  
Kirwan Institute for the 
Study of Race and Ethnicity
Senior Vulnerability Index

Vulnerability
- Calculate z-scores for each vulnerability indicator
- Divide comprehensive vulnerability z-scores into three levels from highest to lowest
- Create a column for vulnerability/density ranking, with values ranging from 1-9 (see box in upper right corner).

Density
- Calculate seniors per square mile for each census tract
- Divide senior population density into three levels from highest to lowest