



FORTERA
FOUNDATION

Creating the bridge to an empowered future.

give

\ˈgɪv\; gave\ˈgāv\; given\ ˈgi-vən\; giving

verb

1. To make a present of;
2. To devote or set aside **for a purpose**



IDENTIFYING THE NEED

Evaluation of local and national research defines areas of emerging and **unmet community need** as opportunities for providing meaningful impact.

THE PINK LINE OF POVERTY

Local demographics contribute to a **high rate of poverty among single mothers**, making it difficult for this growing segment to fulfill occupational and educational aspirations.





IN 2017

the poverty rate

FOR SINGLE MOTHER
FAMILIES WAS

34%

more than **5 times**
the rate of married families

**SINGLE MOTHER
W/CHILDREN FAMILIES**

**\$35,154
Median Income**

**34%
Poverty Rate**



**MARRIED COUPLE
W/CHILDREN FAMILIES**

**\$67,141
Median Income**

**6%
Poverty Rate**



**SINGLE FATHER
W / CHILDREN FAMILIES**

**\$50,625
Median Income**

**19.7%
Poverty Rate**

LOCAL CONCERNS

High Divorce Rate

Local percentage of divorced individuals is much higher than the state average.

High % of Single Mother Households

15.7 % of households contain a single-parent mother with children under the age of 18, which is higher than the state average.

High Fertility Rate

Rate is also much higher than the state average as affected by young and military population.

High % of Child & Female Poverty

Nearly 24% of Montgomery County's children under the age of 18 live below the poverty line. The % of females living in poverty is also higher than the state average.

SINGLE MOTHER STATISTICS IN THE US

80%

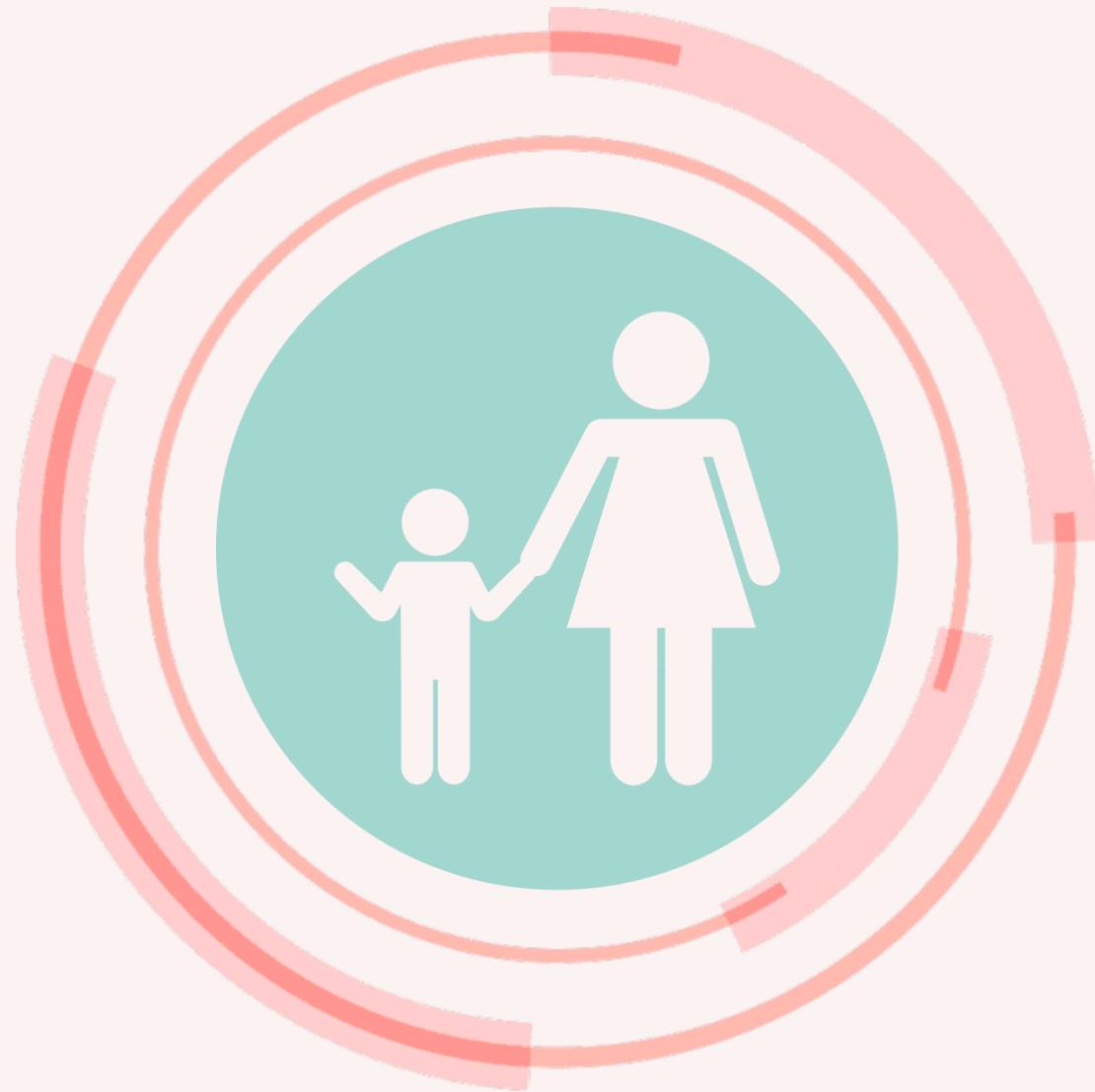
of single-parent families are headed by single mothers and nearly 1/3 of those live in poverty

60%

of all homeless families nationwide are headed by single mothers with children under 18

8%

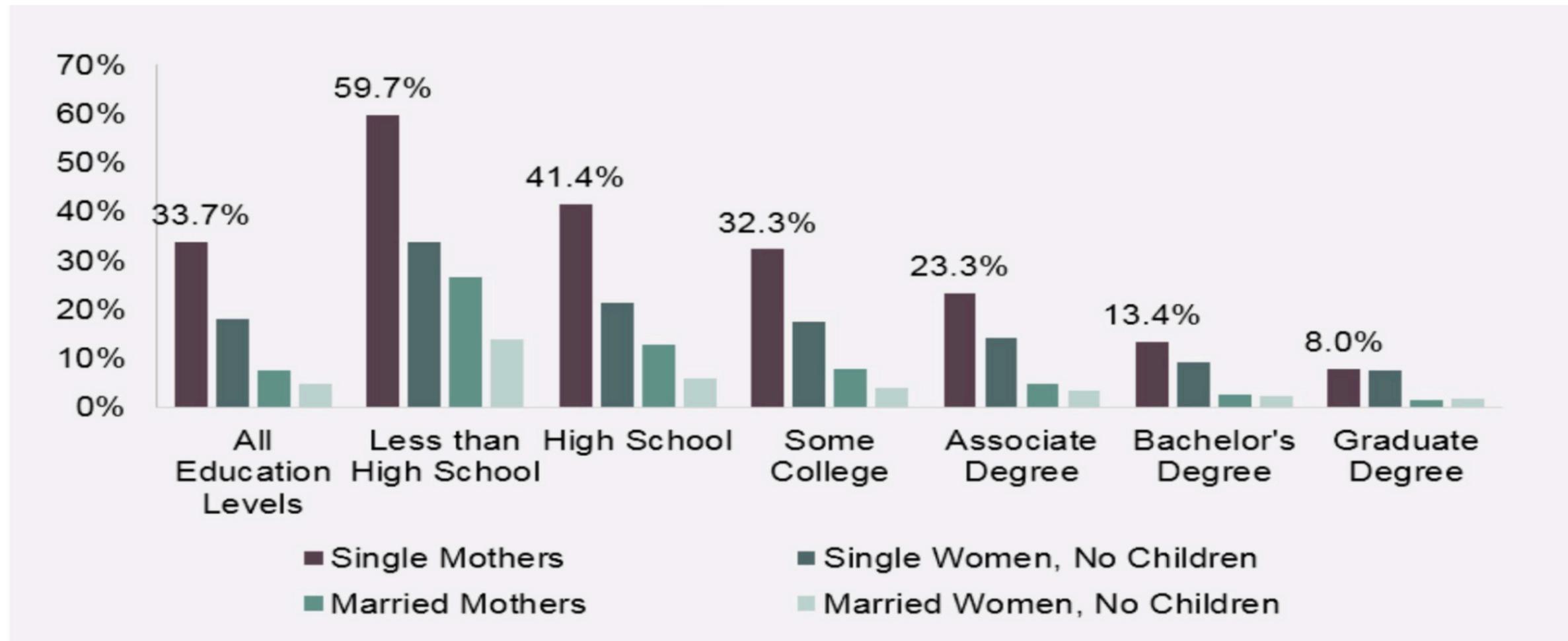
of single-mothers who enroll in college will graduate with an associate or bachelor's degree within six years



BREAKING THE CYCLE

Earning a postsecondary degree is a well-established pathway out of poverty, and degrees are especially life-changing for women raising children on their own.

EDUCATION'S AFFECT ON POVERTY



Single mother poverty rates lower approximately 33% at each additional level of education.



THE OPPORTUNITY

Higher rates of college attainment among single mothers would substantially improve economic security and long-term outcomes for their families.

THE 2 GENERATION BENEFIT

By reaching women and helping them attain financial stability, **not only will their lives change, but the lives of their children and even their grandchildren after that, and so on.**

Those whose parents attend college:

- have parents who end up with more resources;
- are more involved in their children's education; and
- have children who are more likely to pursue higher education.

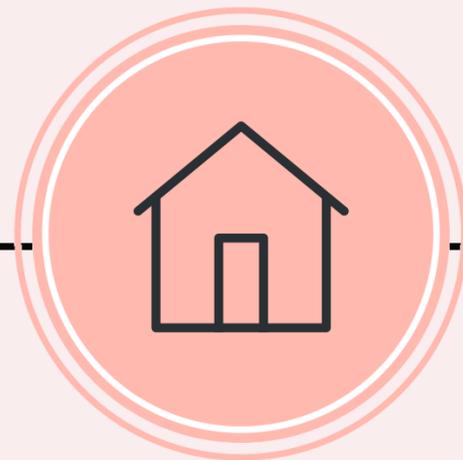


BARRIERS TO SUCCESS

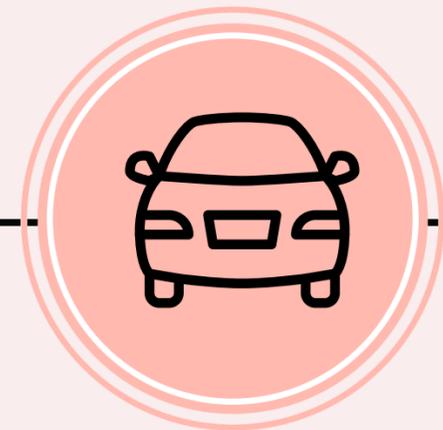
Single mothers face enormous logistical challenges made all-the-more difficult by low wages and limited access to child care, affordable housing and transportation.



Child Care



Housing



Transportation

THE NEED

Spending over half of their income on housing expenses and over a third on child care, single mothers are left with less money for educational expenses. Without financial assistance, single mother students have little or no means to contribute financially to their education or that of their children's.

Providing greater access to supportive services would improve single mothers' ability to enter college and persist to degree completion.

OBJECTIVE

Increase the quality of life for single mothers and their children while lowering poverty levels in the community by:

- lowering single parent college dropout rates;
- increasing educational opportunity and academic success for parents and children; and
- increasing economic self-sufficiency for participants





RESOURCES PROVIDED

In partnership with local schools, universities & nonprofits, the **Fortera Foundation** will provide resources such as:

- Tuition assistance
- Financial literacy and education
- Success coaching
- Employment readiness / soft skills training
- Emergency relief fundin g

