

Quality of Life Index Categories

As indicators were researched, patterns began to emerge, and we began to group indicators together. QOLI indicators were grouped into five different categories of QOL Categories as follows:

- **Education** –Access to high quality education can open many doors and is key to job obtainment as well as gaining skills that help throughout life. Early childhood education can have long-term effects on a child’s well-being and learning opportunities play a key role.
 - **Disenfranchised young adults** - percentage of teens and young adults ages 16-19 in a census tract who are neither working nor in school. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table B14005: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)
 - **Educational attainment** - percentage of adults aged 25 and over in a census tract who have a bachelor’s degree or more. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table B15002: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)
 - **Access to preschool** - Percentage of children aged 3 to 4 in a census tract who are enrolled in preschool (public or private). (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table S1401: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)

- **Prosperity** - Prosperity denotes the ability to thrive – access to jobs is important, but so is the quality of these jobs and the pay level of these jobs. Communities thrive on a variety of services and a variety of opportunities being offered. Economic mobility affects every aspect of a persons’ life and is therefor incredibly important to measure.
 - **Labor force Participation Rate** - percentage of people 16 and over in a census tract who are in the labor force. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table DP03: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)
 - **Employment** - percentage of 16 and over in a census tract who are employed. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table DP03: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)
 - **Quality of jobs obtained** - percentage of people aged 16 and over in a census tract who are in management positions. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table S2401: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)
 - **Income Inequality** - The Gini index (a measurement of income inequality) was operationalized by census tract. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table B19083: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)
 - **Single mother families** - percentage of family households who indicated a female householder, with no co-parent present, and living with their own children under 18 years of age. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table S1101: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)

- **Health** - Access to quality healthcare is important for many reasons. The healthier a community is, the stronger the community. Barriers to healthcare, whether that is no health insurance or physical access to medical facilities, can impact a community negatively.

- **People with health insurance** - percentage of the population in a census tract with health insurance coverage. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table S2701: Available at <https://data.census.gov/>.)
 - **Life expectancy** - life expectancy by census tract. (CDC National Center for Health Statistics, the United States Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP), 2010-2015: <https://www.naphsis.org/usaleep>)
 - **Medically Underserved Areas** - Areas or populations designated by HRSA as having too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty or a high elderly population. (Designations available at <http://muafind.hrsa.gov/>)
 - **Food Deserts** – Census tracts designated as low access to food defined as a grocery within a 1/2 mile in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas. (USDA Economic Research Service, 2015-2019: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/>)
- **Housing quality** - The quality of housing stock and the affordability to those living within the community is one of the most important factors when thinking about the quality of someone’s life. If one lives in safe, decent, and affordable housing they can then focus on other areas of their lives.
 - **Functioning kitchens** - percentage of occupied housing units in a census tract with functioning kitchens. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table DP04: Available at <https://data.census.gov/>.)
 - **Functional plumbing** - percentage of occupied housing units in a census tract with complete plumbing. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table DP04: Available at <https://data.census.gov/>.)
 - **Cost burdened owners** - percentage of occupied households by census tract spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing-related costs. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table B25093: Available at <https://data.census.gov/>.)
 - **Cost burdened renters** - a percentage of occupied households by census tract spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing-related costs. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table B25070: Available at <https://data.census.gov/>.)
 - **Mobile home concentration** - percentage of total mobile housing units by census tract. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table DP04: Available at <https://data.census.gov/>.)
 - **Crowded housing** - percentage of occupied households with more than one person per room by census tract. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table DP04: Available at <https://data.census.gov/>.)
 - **Vacant housing** - percentage of total housing units in a census tract that are unoccupied. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table DP04: Available at <https://data.census.gov/>.)
- **Connectivity** - Being connected in a community is important now more than ever. Before coronavirus we were limited in our thinking of what constitutes connectivity. It was thought as more of a physical thing. However, with the shutdowns and the shift from in person activities (social, work, doctors’ appointments, etc.) it became increasingly vital that we can connect virtually. As the world starts to open, in person connectivity will once again be important but we will never go back to a fully in person lifestyle. It is also important to note that being able to

communicate within the boundaries is crucial to feeling a sense of connection. Limited English households often struggle getting important information.

- **Linguistically isolated households** - percentage of people that speak English less than well in a census tract. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table B16005: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)
- **Broadband access** - percentage of households with subscriptions to broadband internet service by census tract. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table S2801: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)
- **Resident turnover** - percentage of the population in a census tract aged 1 year who did not move in the last year. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table B07003: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)
- **Commute times** - Mean travel time to work by census tract. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table DP03: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)
- **Cars per household** - percentage of occupied households with more than one car per household. (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (Annual) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table DP04: Available at <https://data.census.gov>.)

Each category is assigned 2 points in the 10-point scale that can be broken down to reveal what categories a Census Tract is successful in and which it is not. In this way, the QOLI becomes a map to an affordable housing development's need and fit in a community and the needs it will be filling. Holes in the scoring become a narrative and context for decision making on many fronts. With the QOLI, our investments can be analyzed for the impact they might have.