



Opportunity Insights' Impact Across America

How the research is being used in communities across our country



HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

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Opportunity Insights' Approach

Pioneering research and research translation to support policy and community impacts

The mission of Opportunity Insights (OI) is to **identify barriers to economic opportunity and inform scalable solutions** that will empower people throughout the United States to rise out of poverty and achieve better life outcomes. We accomplish this mission by conducting interdisciplinary, big data research on the determinants of economic opportunity and translating this research to accessible and relevant public goods to support scalable policy change.

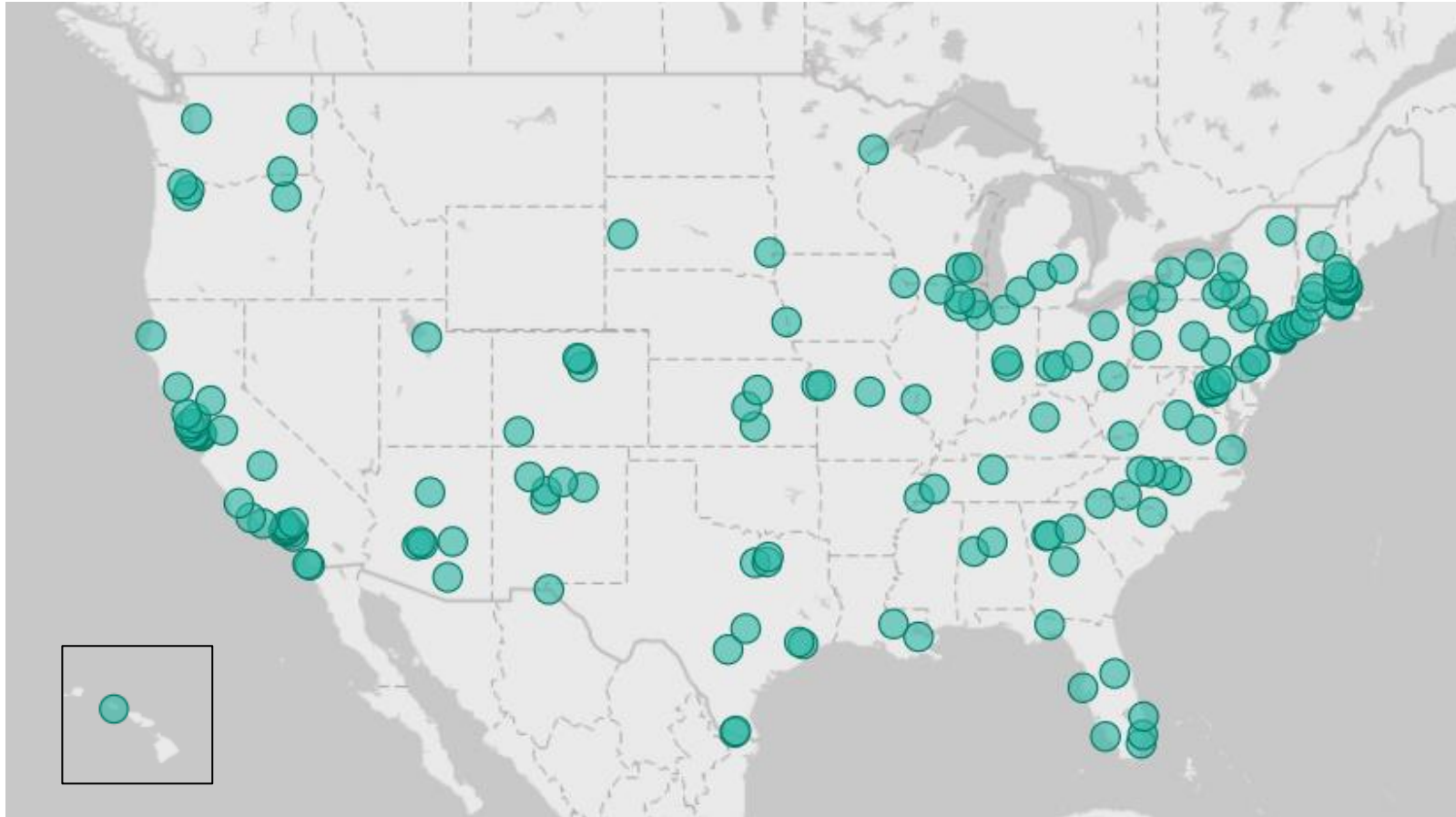


▶ The following slides provide examples of OI's research impacts in different policy areas – from place-based and housing programming to economic recovery and higher education – in diverse communities across the United States.



Communities Across the Country are Using OI's Research

A diverse and growing network that is putting OI's mobility research into action



In 2024, OI's research
was used by

300+
organizations

200+
cities

41
states



Sparking Place-Based Investment to Improve Economic Mobility

Research used to ground municipal and regional strategies on economic opportunity



Call to action sparks long-term commitment

📍 *Charlotte, NC*

After being ranked last in OI's 2014 Land of Opportunity study, Charlotte leveraged cross-sector partnerships and local input to focus on improving economic mobility as a community North Star.



\$160M corporate investment in local workforce development



Mayor's initiative raises \$250M to boost opportunity in Charlotte



A local data tool developed to monitor opportunity indicators for >100 area nonprofits



City of
Philadelphia

Mobilizing cross-sector partnerships

📍 *Philadelphia, PA*

Using data from OI's research on changing opportunity, the Philadelphia committed to a new long-term vision of improving mobility through public-private partnerships and investments in April 2025.



Mayor Parker Announces Landmark Public-Private Partnership Workforce Development Investment

\$20M investment will support training programs for in-demand jobs and provide wraparound services to expand economic opportunity for all Philadelphians.



Improving Housing Policy at Local and Federal Levels

Research used to expand low-income families' access to high-opportunity neighborhoods



Creating Moves to Opportunity

📍 *Seattle, WA*

CMTO, a pilot program in Seattle, tested strategies to help families with housing choice vouchers move to high-opportunity neighborhoods. Promising results catalyzed new federal housing investments.



[A Better Address Can Change a Child's Future](#)



[In Seattle, A Move Across Town Could Be A Path Out Of Poverty](#)



[Seattle may have figured out how to get more poor people into better housing](#)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

HUD launches \$75M Community Choice Demonstration project in CA, LA, MN, NY, OH, PA, and TN to replicate the CMTO approach.

U.S. Congress

Bipartisan bill, Family Stability & Opportunity Vouchers Act, to add 250K vouchers to increase stability and geographic choice for families.

U.S. Congress

Bipartisan bill, Choice in Affordable Housing Act, to provide \$500M to increase landlord participation and expand access to vouchers.



Informing Local Philanthropic Initiatives

Research used to shape evidence-based grantmaking to expand economic opportunity



Creating Economic Connectedness

📍 *Pittsburgh, PA*

The RKMf uses OI's social capital research to inform their investments – grantmaking that aims to increase the formation of young people's social connections across economic classes in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties and test innovative ways to increase these connections.



Improved Economic Mobility Initiative

📍 *St. Louis, MO*

The Marillac Mission Fund uses OI's economic mobility research to inform investments that work to sustainably improve the economic position of individuals, families, and communities throughout the St. Louis region. The goal of this new funding area is to strengthen regional efforts to permanently lift families out of poverty.



High-Impact Economic Mobility Grants

📍 *Houston, TX*

The GHCF is using OI's economic mobility research and Opportunity Atlas to inform their high-impact grantmaking initiative focused on economic mobility. The goal of the initiative is to make meaningful and measurable impact by investing in and supporting efforts that advance economic mobility and address intergenerational poverty for children and families in Houston.



Shaping Macroeconomic Policy

Research used to guide federal policy on economic recovery

OI research provided real-time data on the economic impacts of COVID-19 and shaped economic recovery policy.

The Washington Post

Cutting off stimulus checks to Americans earning >\$75K could be wise, new data suggests

The New York Times

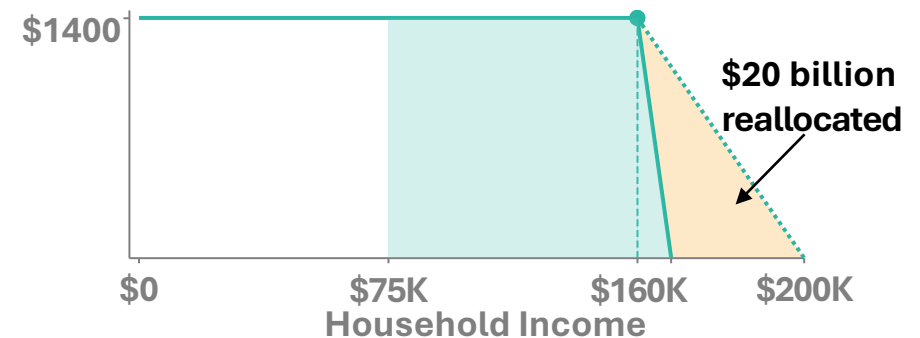
10 Republicans Outline Smaller Stimulus Proposal Before Meeting With Biden

The Washington Post

Opinion: It's not progressive to give money to the rich

How Much of Their Stimulus Checks Did Households Spend?

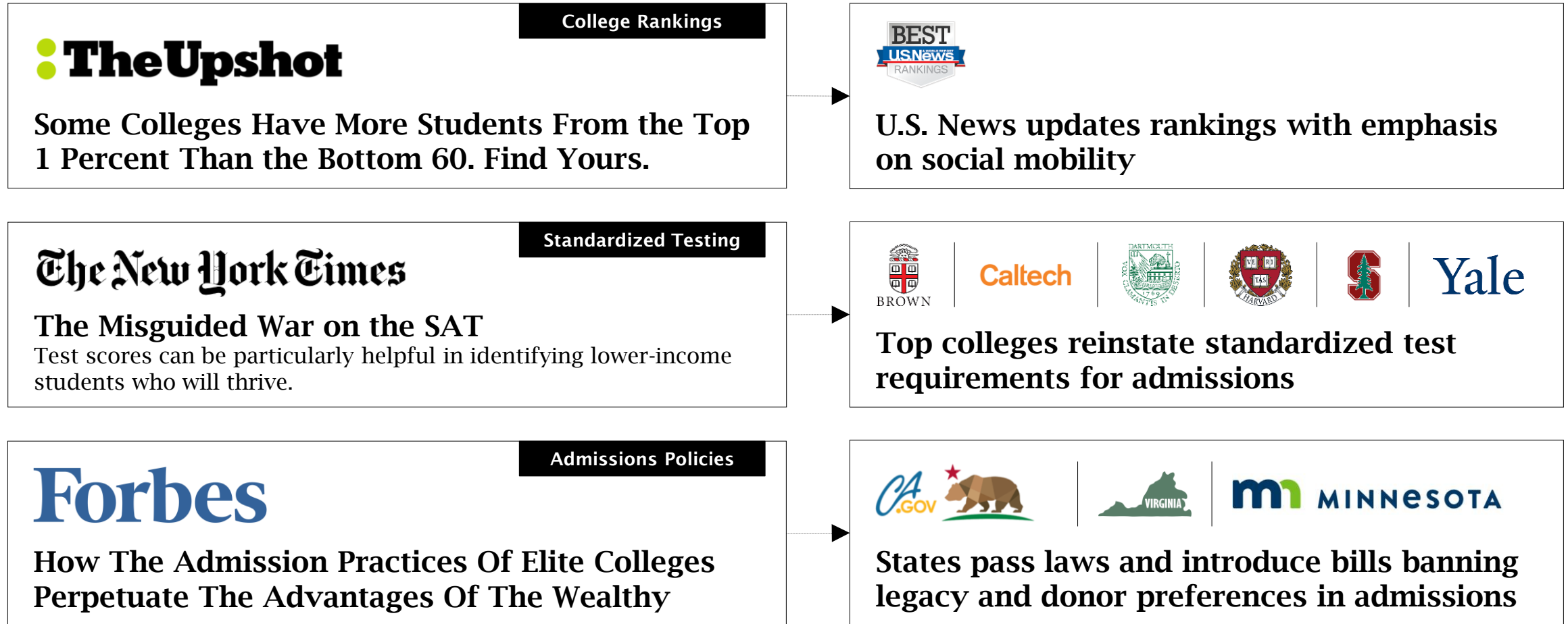
OI shared research with policymakers as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was being considered, recommending that March 2021 payments be targeted to lower-income households. Ultimately, policymakers lowered the income threshold to households making less than \$170,000 per year, resulting in **\$20 billion in federal savings**.



Informing Higher Education Policy

Research used to shift education policies in college rankings, standardized testing, and admissions

OI research on higher education has provided new evidence to inform admissions and standardized testing policies.





Explore your community's data

[Opportunity Atlas](#)

[Social Capital Atlas](#)

[Mobility Report Cards](#)

[Economic Tracker](#)



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