The Fund for Our Economic Future, in partnership with business and civic leaders, seeks to advance a growing, opportunity-rich economy for all people of Northeast Ohio. We are working toward “Growth & Opportunity” through job creation, job preparation and job access strategies that aim to strengthen the connectivity between the region’s most distressed neighborhoods and the regional economy. The Fund uses two measures, labor force participation rate and median household income, to identify neighborhoods of economic distress that are at a particular disadvantage. We will pay particular attention to Lorain and Elyria, Ohio, given the disproportionately higher share of labor force participation among its low-income residents than other places in the region, and a strong network of partners that seek to effect long-term change.¹

¹ Economically distressed neighborhoods refer to census tracts where less than 65 percent of residents age 25-64 are connected to the labor force (working or looking for work) and median household income was in the bottom quartile, i.e. below $31,322 in 2014.
Lorain & Elyria by the Numbers:

- 3,575 residents in Lorain County live in economically distressed neighborhoods located across two census tracts in the city of Lorain and the city of Elyria (see addendum). These residents represent:
  - Over 1 percent of Northeast Ohio’s distressed area population (Chart 1)
  - 4 percent of the residents of the city of Lorain and 2 percent of the city of Elyria (Chart 2).
- Typical annual income for a household in these neighborhoods is $23,520, compared to a regional median of $51,263.
- Labor force participation (i.e., people working or looking for work) among working age adults (25 to 64) is 56 percent, compared to a regional average of 78 percent.

Economically Distressed Neighborhoods in Lorain and Elyria:

Lorain County Distressed Tracts 2014
Less than 65% LFP and Less than $31,322 HH Income

Source: Census ACS 2014 5-Year