



## Topic: OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS

### STUDENT ACTIVITY: **Vital Vocabulary**

#### **Community Development Financial Institution**

[Community Development Financial Institutions](#) (CDFI) actively work to provide individuals with access to bank accounts and small businesses with access to the capital investment necessary to spark economic growth in their communities. These funds also support workforce development efforts, specifically targeted toward low-income and underserved individuals and communities.

#### **Human Capital**

The knowledge and skills that people obtain through education, experience, and training.

#### **Income**

The payment people receive for providing resources in the labor market. When people work, they provide human resources (labor) and in exchange they receive income in the form of wages or salaries. People also earn income in the forms of rent, profit, and interest.

#### **Labor Market**

The exchange of labor between workers who want to sell their labor and businesses that want to purchase that labor. (Also known as the job market).

#### **Opportunity Employment**

An estimate of the number and share of jobs accessible to workers without a bachelor's degree that pay more than the national median wage.

#### **Opportunity Occupations**

Jobs that are accessible to individuals without a bachelor's degree, yet pay above the national annual median wage.

#### **Wages**

Income earned for providing human resources or labor in the market.

#### **Workforce Development**

A wide range of activities, policies and programs that create, sustain and retain a skilled labor force to meet the needs of current and future businesses, an investment that yields positive returns for businesses, workers and their communities.

**Questions:**

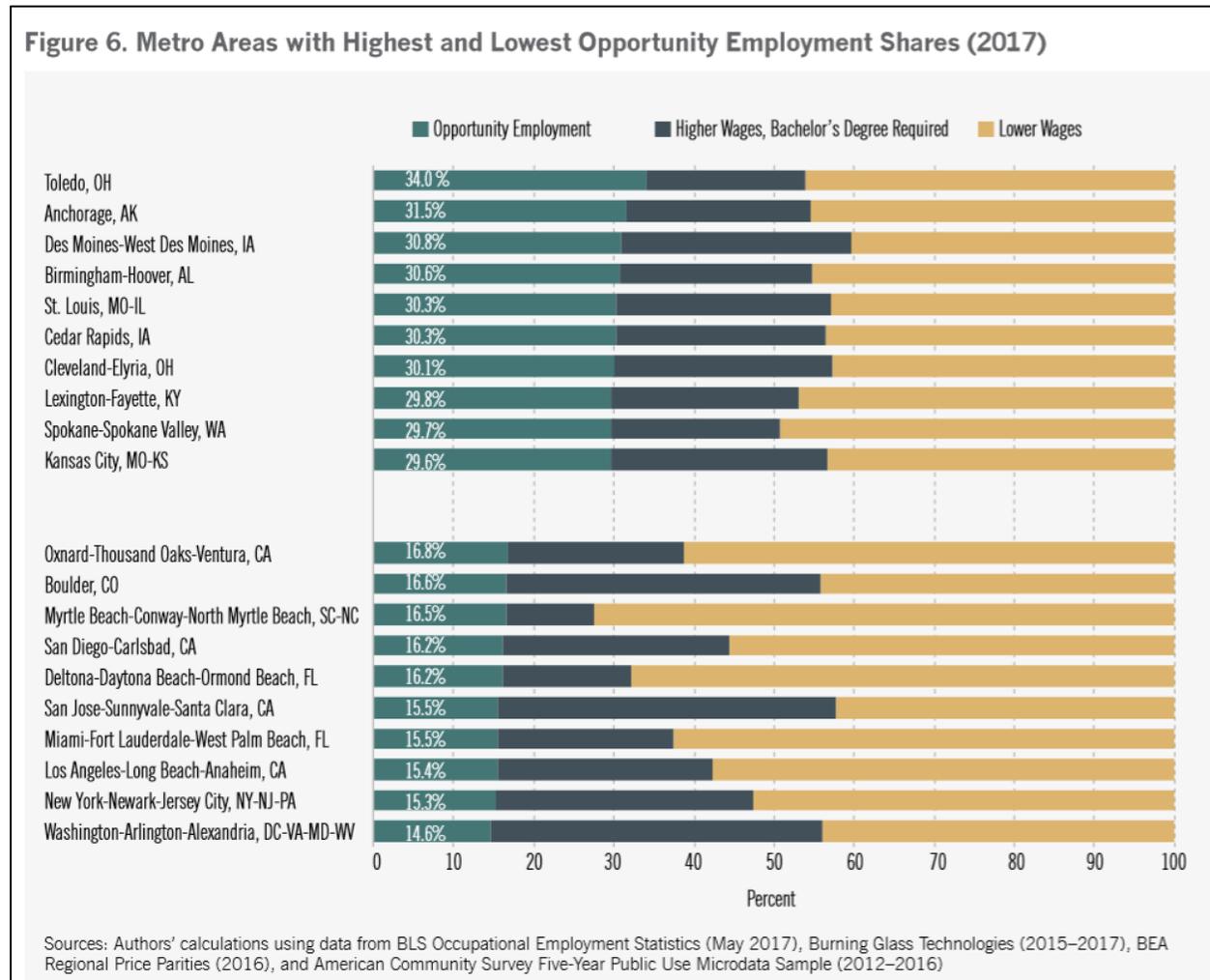
1. Use this [link](#) to view opportunity employment research on the 121 largest metro areas in the U.S.
  - Which metro area is closest to where you live?
  
  - What is the share of opportunity employment in that area?
  
  - Where does it rank compared to the other metro areas?
  
  - How do wages and opportunity employment numbers compare amongst the top three opportunity occupations in this metro area?
  
2. How has your human capital improved through your classes and activities during high school?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Investigate workforce development programs and activities in your school or school district and summarize them.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Income is one factor for an individual to consider when looking for a job. What are three other important factors you might consider?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Research community development financial institutions in your area through the [CDFI locator site](#). Describe the work each does to serve their community.

6. What advice would you give to a younger student about their future career options if they didn't think they'd have enough money to get a bachelor's degree? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Considering their human capital, what can students do to better prepare to join the labor market?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What happens to wages when there are more workers in the labor market than there are businesses wanting to purchase labor?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. If wages don't increase at the rate of inflation or the cost of living, how does this affect workers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What would be the impact to workers if there were more jobs available than workers in the labor market?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. How might someone increase their income if they needed more money for monthly expenses?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. In your opinion, what challenges might employers with opportunity occupations face when hiring and/or retaining employees?

13. Do you think that opportunity occupations are a valuable part of the labor market? Why or why not?
  
14. What jobs are most common in your state's labor market? Which of these occupations are considered opportunity occupations?
  
15. In your opinion, will the total number of opportunity occupations in the U.S. be higher or lower ten years from now? Why?
  
16. Identify one opportunity occupation that you could envision pursuing, using the [Opportunity Occupation Fact Sheets](#) Use the [Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) to research the skills, qualifications and training needed for that job and its projected rate of growth.
  
17. Using information from the [Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook](#), rank these career paths based on average income levels of the opportunity occupations that fall within them: healthcare, law, and finance.
  
18. Compare the fastest growing jobs and the most new jobs from the [Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) and identify the opportunity occupations that are on both lists. Then, investigate the skills and qualifications for the jobs that overlap and identify where those overlap as well.

19. In the table below, how do Toledo, OH and Washington D.C. differ as far as their share of opportunity occupations?

20. Based on the table below, what can be inferred about opportunity occupations in cities on the coasts as compared to those in the Midwest?



Charts/tables are from *Opportunity Occupations Revisited: Exploring Employment for Sub-Baccalaureate Workers Across Metro Areas and Over Time*, developed by Keith Wardrip from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, as well as Kyle Fee and Lisa Nelson from the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. April 2019