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## **MORGAN HILL TACKLES ECONOMIC DISPARITY WITH FOCUS ON LATINX COMMUNITY**

**Morgan Hill, CA (May 9, 2024)** – The City of Morgan Hill has embarked on an Economic Mobility Study to understand the Community's needs better and address existing disparities in housing and access to opportunity. Thanks to a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the International City/County Management Association ([ICMA](https://www.icma.org/)), the City of Morgan Hill is advancing an economic mobility program called ELEVATE Morgan Hill. The program aims to develop a strategy connecting Spanish-speaking and lower-income Community members to jobs and housing resources while increasing their sense of belonging to the greater Community.

According to the data collected by the ELEVATE Morgan Hill report, 50% of Morgan Hill residents are cost-burdened, and 28% rely on some form of financial assistance. This data is consistent with the 2024 Index by Joint Venture Silicon Valley, which identified that nearly a third of Silicon Valley households struggle to afford basic necessities. The data also highlighted a concerning racial and ethnic disparity, with Hispanic or Latinx non-citizens and individuals with limited English proficiency showing the highest risk of income inadequacy.

According to the City's Housing Needs Assessment, the Latinx population, which comprises over 30% of the population in Morgan Hill and has the highest poverty rate, are disproportionately renters and are the most severely cost-burdened with 21.5% spending more than 50% of their income on housing. This racial group also has the highest overcrowding rate. In Santa Clara County, Latinx residents represent 42.7% of the population experiencing homelessness. In the region, limited English proficiency (LEP) Spanish speakers are concentrated in Downtown, South, and East San Jose, as well as in Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Hollister. While Morgan Hill has been producing a lot of housing and has one of the largest affordable housing portfolios in the region, the need to support our underserved populations is clearly articulated in the state-certified Housing Element.

The City of Morgan Hill will share the Economic Mobility Study findings at the **ELEVATE Morgan Hill Economic Mobility Symposium** on May 30 at the Granada Theatre. "The City invites Community leaders, policymakers, and service providers to help us build a more equitable, inclusive, and prosperous Community," said Assistant City Manager Edith Ramirez. "We want to create a more resilient Community by supporting our most vulnerable residents and creating economic opportunities that will lift people out of poverty," she added.

### **About the Economic Mobility Symposium** **Thursday, May 30, 2024**

7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Granada Theatre, 17440 Monterey Road, Morgan Hill, California

[Economic Mobility Symposium Tickets on Eventbrite](#)

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