

NOTRE DAME POVERTY INITIATIVE

2025 YEAR-END UPDATE

Notre Dame is committed to upholding the dignity of all humans by supporting research and education that will create a better understanding of what causes poverty and how to end it.

“By launching innovative research projects, creating the new Poverty Research Fellows Program for undergraduates, and shaping antipoverty policy, the Poverty Initiative’s work is already being felt at Notre Dame and across the globe.”



James X. Sullivan

Director, Poverty Initiative; Professor, Department of Economics; Director, Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities

STUDYING POVERTY FROM EVERY ANGLE

RECRUITING FACULTY EXPERTS

6

new faculty

Supported the successful recruitment of six expert faculty in the Keough School of Global Affairs and the College of Arts & Letters to advance understanding of the causes of and solutions to poverty. Focus areas include development economics, education, migration, family structures, social policy, demography, and sustainability.



INVESTING IN RESEARCH PILLARS

Through support for **Notre Dame Population Analytics**, propelling research that uses large-scale datasets to trace the root causes of demographic shifts and crafting solutions grounded in evidence.

Affiliated faculty are studying migration, the barriers to access mental health care, breaking cycles of poverty and expanding economic mobility, the role of neighborhoods in economic success, the connection between poverty and the opioid epidemic, and more.



Advancing the **Migration Research Initiative** based at the Klau Institute for Civil and Human Rights in the Keough School.

This multi-disciplinary team of scholars is developing a research agenda and will host the Midwest Migration Scholars Workshop in spring 2026.



Expanding efforts to understand solutions to the opioid crisis through collaboration with the West Virginia First Foundation, which allocates roughly 70% of the state's \$980 million in settlement dollars to support prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives.



ACCELERATING CURRENT FACULTY RESEARCH

Awarded

8

Poverty Research Package grants

to faculty and teams across

7 departments

Topics ranged from the history of affordable housing in America to studying entrepreneurial success in Uganda.



FORMING THE NEXT GENERATION OF POVERTY FIGHTERS



Growing the **Poverty Research Fellows** program to 32 research and policy internships for summer 2026.



Collaborating with the Department of Economics to launch the **Evidence-Based Poverty Alleviation Concentration** to give students the opportunity to study cutting-edge research on poverty, master the causal inference tools used to assess anti-poverty policies, and prepare for careers in research, policy, and impact-driven leadership.



MOVING EVIDENCE TO IMPACT

In partnership with the Poverty Initiative, the College of Arts & Letters recently launched the **Notre Dame Strengthening Families Research Initiative** to address one of society's most urgent challenges: the decline of two-parent households and its impact on children's opportunities. Led by **Melissa Kearney**, this interdisciplinary effort brings together scholars in economics, psychology, anthropology, and related fields to generate rigorous, policy-relevant research. By building and sharing evidence that can strengthen families, support parents, and improve child well-being, the Initiative is helping shape effective solutions to close class gaps and promote the conditions in which all children can thrive.



"Through rigorous scholarship and active engagement, this effort will deepen our understanding of the challenges facing families in America and identify solutions that promote healthy family formation and stability. This is a timely and important endeavor — and Notre Dame is exactly the right place for it."

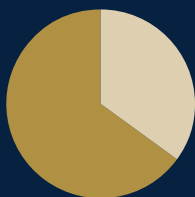
Melissa Kearney, the Gilbert F. Schaefer Professor of Economics

DEPLOYING RESOURCES

17 INVESTMENTS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY

\$5.8M

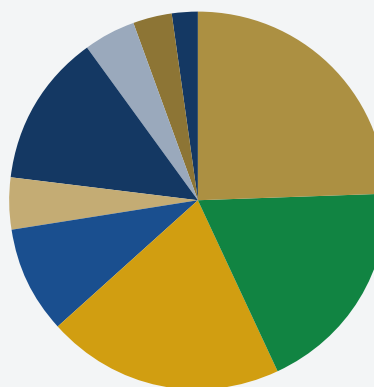
in investments supporting faculty, staff, pre-doctoral, and post-doctoral scholars working on poverty-related projects.



65% achieving research excellence

35% student formation and impact

FY26 INVESTMENTS BY ACADEMIC UNIT



24.6% LEO

18.5% Economics

20.3% Pulte

9.3% Keough

4.5% Biology

12.9% ND Pop

4.6% Engineering

3.3% Federal Relations

2% Other