HOW WE GOT HERE
Examining the economic reality of Philadelphia

Loss of earning power
Deindustrialization hit Philadelphia particularly hard from the 1950s to 1990s.

For example, USX Bucks County steel plant employed 10,000 people in 1974, but only 850 when the factory closed in 1991.

26% poverty rate
48% of Philadelphians struggle to make ends meet

Criminal justice policies
Philadelphia has the highest incarceration rate in the country. Many individuals and families in Philadelphia incur criminal justice debt, or debt related to bail, booking, release, public defender fees or restitution fines.

Discriminatory housing practices
For 30 years, until 1986, the Federal Housing Authority refused to support loans for Black people.

Many neighborhoods were labeled "dangerous" and remain hyper-segregated today, devoid of investment ever since.

Access to education
City public schools have been underfunded since the 19th century.

State education funding was frozen from 1992 to 2007.

Pa. schools rely more on property taxes, but the tax pool is shallow

Learn and read more about Philadelphia's economic reality at www.brokeinphilly.org
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Source: Shared Prosperity Philadelphia, The Pew Charitable Trusts