

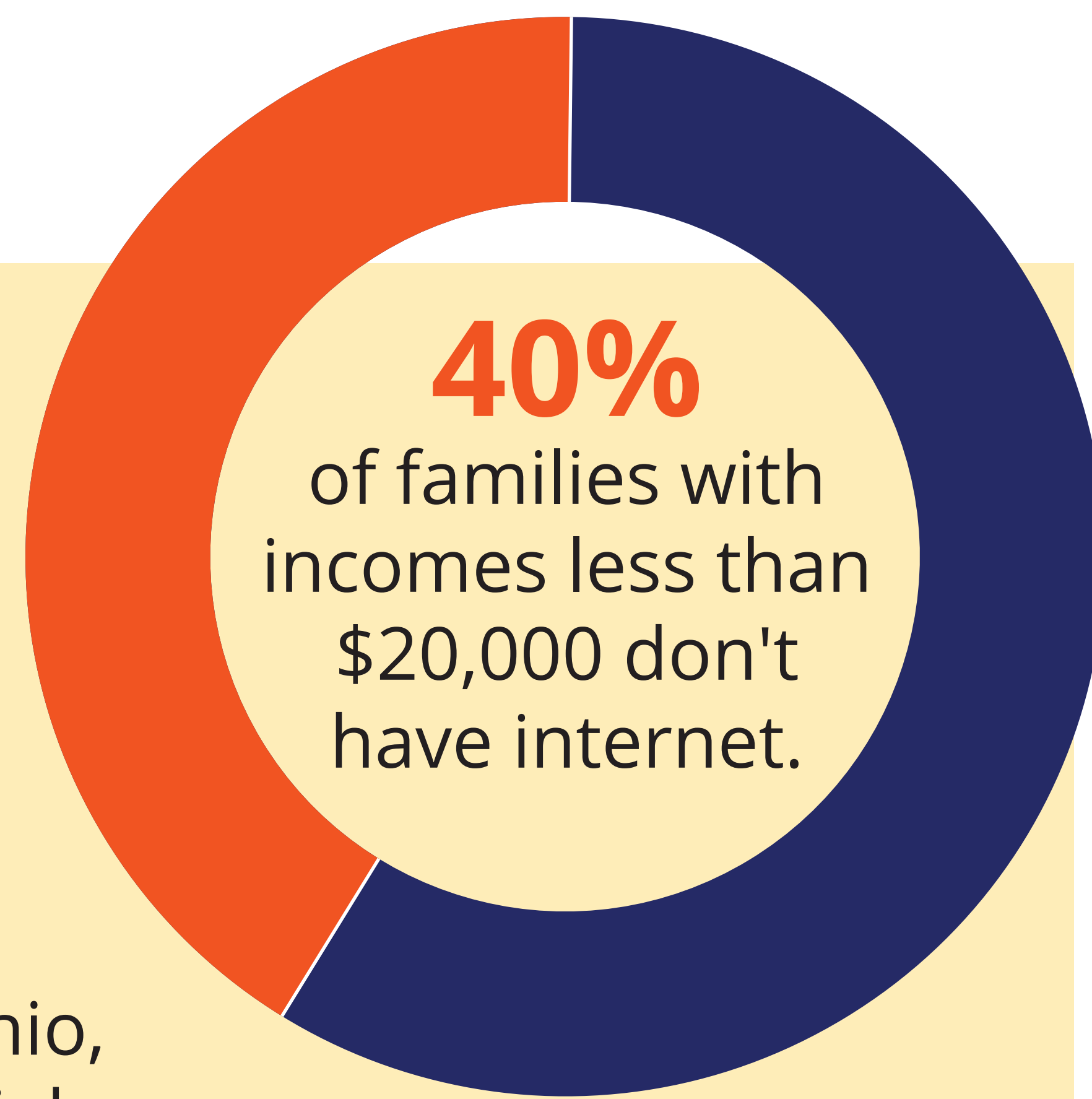


BROADBAND ACCESS

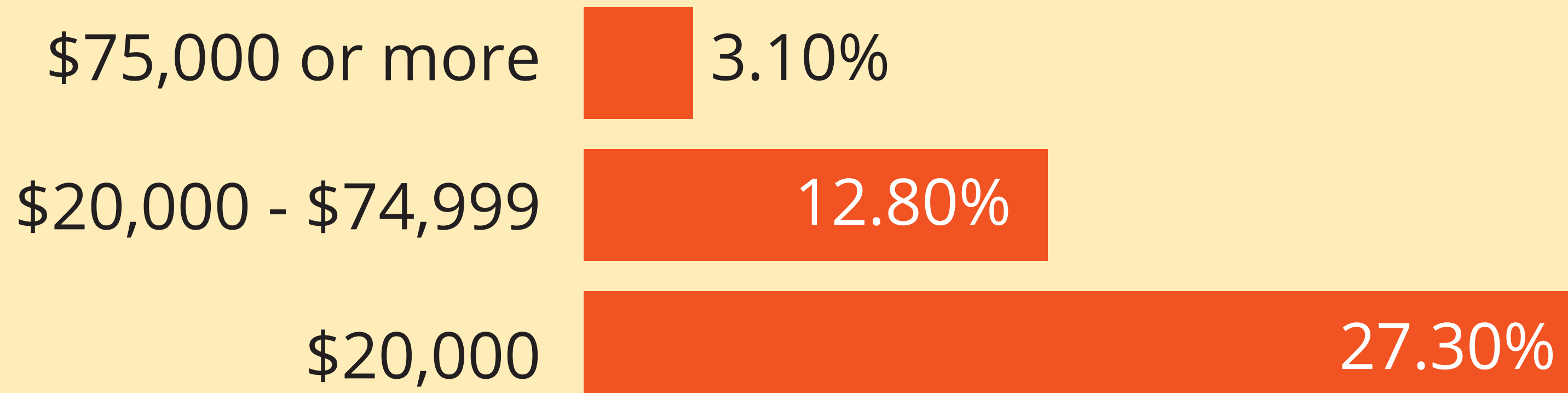
DATA:

According to Innovate Ohio, more than 300,000 households, representing nearly **1 million people** in Ohio, don't have access to high speed internet.

Nearly 18% of households in Cuyahoga County lack internet access, and for families with incomes less than \$20,000, that number is 40%.



Percentage of people in Cleveland WITHOUT an internet subscription by income (2021)



Digital redlining exacerbates racial and income inequality by preventing people from access to health care, job opportunities, and being able to take virtual classes.²

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:

Employer Practices

- Provide employees with devices and hotspots if working remotely is required or if training opportunities are available via internet.

Determinant Impacted:



- Offer internet and/or mobile service provider employee discounts.

Policies

- Identify broadband access as a necessary utility with universal access.

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT:

Digital Connectivity Initiative, a partnership between MetroHealth, DigitalC, CMHA and Dollar Bank, connected 1,000 Cleveland Households and approximately 2,200 Cleveland residents to affordable and reliable internet within MetroHealth's footprint.

Launched in response to a 2019 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census that identified Cleveland as the worst-connected big city in the nation, the initiative set out to connect 1,000 households in neighborhoods directly served by MetroHealth by 2024. The health system recognized that internet connectivity is necessary for essential functions, like communicating with health care providers, connecting with social support services, and completing job applications.



Learn more about the Digital Connectivity Initiative.



¹ api.census.gov/data/2021/acs/acs1/subject
² policymattersohio.org/research-policy/quality-ohio/revenue-budget/budget-policy/ohios-family-budget