The working age population (age 18-64) of metropolitan New Orleans is projected to shrink slightly in coming years while its senior population grows.

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN NEW ORLEANS UNLOCKED THROUGH EQUITY**

Striving for racial equity, a world where opportunity is available to all, is not only a matter of social justice but also a catalyst for economic opportunity. People of color (POC) will power New Orleans' fiscal future.

**SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS**

The productivity of our future workforce is critical to support the fiscal outlook of New Orleans and the entire state.

If all POC throughout metro New Orleans, including the formerly incarcerated, had equitable access to economic opportunity, the state would see an additional $17 billion annually.

**THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EQUITY**

REDUCING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS

To secure and advance our fiscal future, we must intentionally reduce systemic barriers to economic opportunity, especially for POC. For New Orleans, this involves reform in the criminal justice system.

- Reconnect returning citizens to jobs.
- Promote entrepreneurship opportunities for these individuals.
- Prevent recidivism.

**RACIAL DISPARITY IN ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT**

Louisiana has the highest rate of incarceration in the world. Compared to national averages, the state has a much lower rate of violent crime inmates and much higher rate for drug-related crime.

**EMPowering RETURNING Citizens**

Those with a felony record face thousands of collateral sanctions that make it difficult for them to reintegrate into society.

- Take action, build the future
- Everyone has an opportunity to contribute to the equity and economic viability of the future.

- Review hiring and work practices.
- Make targeted investments in people and communities.
- Support public policies increasing ability for all to succeed.