## Expanding Worker Voice among Nonstandard Workers in CA

Derecka Mehrens - Working Partnerships USA

National Academy of Social Insurance January 30, 2018



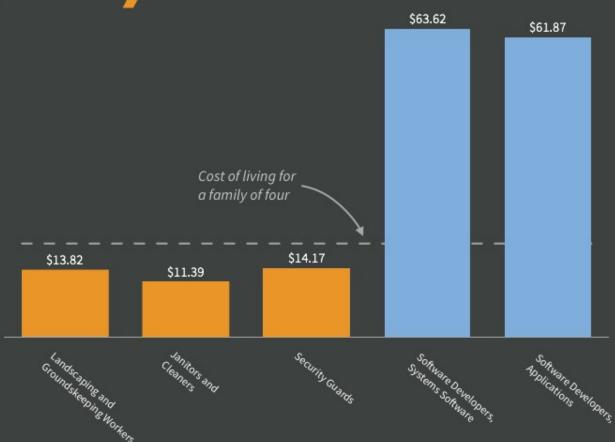




## Epicenter of inequality

### Median Hourly Wages in Santa Clara County, 2014

Source: California Employment Development Department



### theguardian

More than one-third of schoolchildren are homeless in shadow of Silicon Valley



High rents force some in Silicon Valley to live in vehicles



'Traffic is Only Going to Get Worse': Silicon Valley Megacommute Averages 90 Minutes, Worse Than LA

### Silicon Valley

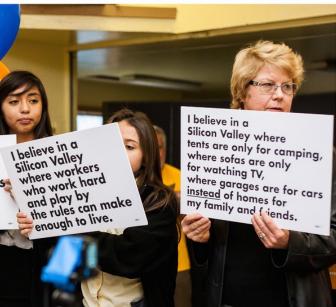
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Inspiring the tech industry to build an inclusive middle class





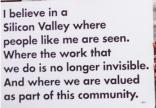
















but that my

neighborhood is

a place I can be pro







facebook



### Engaging tech in our region's most pressing challenges

Protecting our immigrant communities

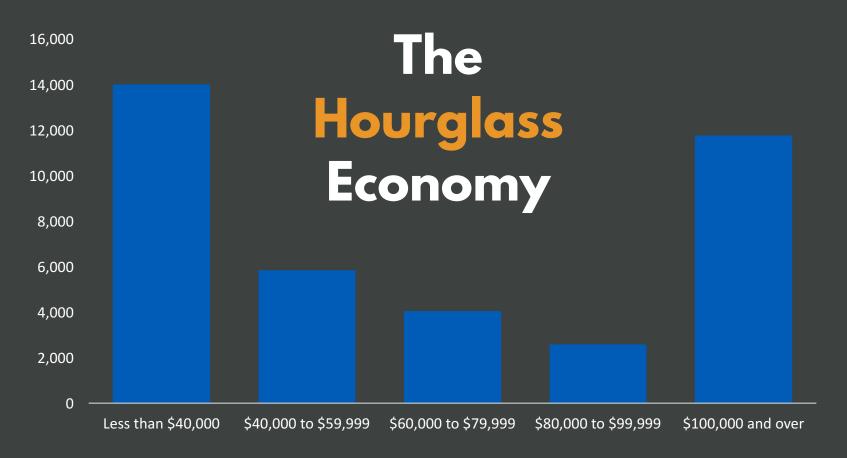
Ensuring access to quality healthcare

Responsible contracting & supply chains to tackle poverty wages

Solutions to our region's displacement and affordable housing crises

Strategies to create middle-wage, familysupporting jobs

### Projected Job Openings by Earnings in Santa Clara County, 2014-2024



Source: California Employment Development Dept., Occupational Employment Projections

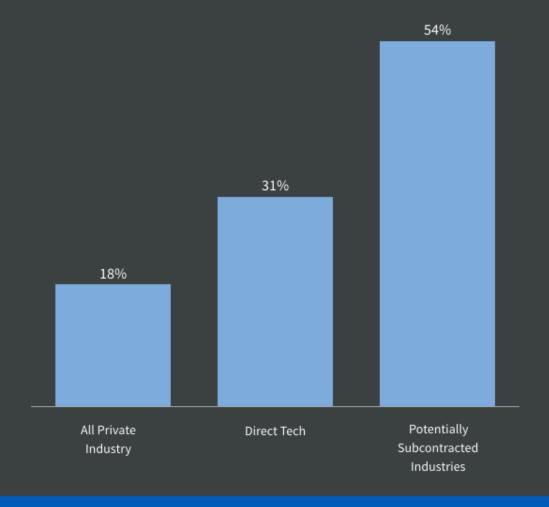
#### Employment growth by industry over the last 24 years

Source: Tech's Invisible Workforce

### Contract industries have grown

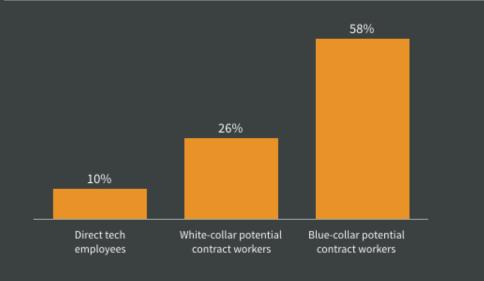
3x

faster than overall employment

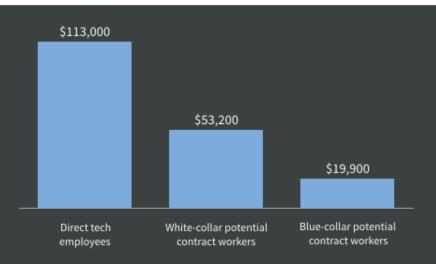


# Occupational Segregation in Tech

### % of employees who are Black/Hispanic



#### Average annual earnings



## Rampant Wage Theft & Lack of Enforcement

Each week, wage violations occur in 11-12% of all low-wage jobs in CA<sub>(UC Berkeley, Oct. 2015)</sub>

Wage & hour violations cost low-wage workers an est. \$2,070 per year - 12.5% of earnings.

(UC Berkeley, Oct. 2015)

Less than 20% of penalties awarded for labor violations in CA are actually collected

(Labor Commission, 2012-13)



### Rise of the Platform Economy....



### Stories of Nonstandard Workers

- Misclassification
- Wage theft
- Job insecurity
- Lack of employersponsored health insurance
- Health and safety hazards
- No workers' comp

...NO right to collective bargaining

for all off the above



Source: Brian Anselm, New York Times

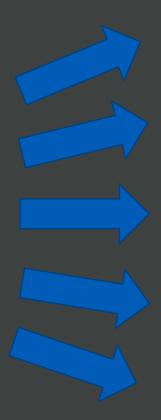


Source: David Paul Morris, Bloomberg / Getty Images

## Worker Voice as Critical Path to Social Insurance for Nonstandard Workers



Source: Ashley Huie, The New Social Worker



Better wages

Access to health insurance, retirement, other benefits

Stronger health & safety protections

Workers' comp

Shaping the future of work

### What's Next?

- ✓ Survey 1099 and platform workers across CA: What do workers want and need?
- ✓ Research potential policy solutions & organizing models
- ✓ Pilot worker organizing experiments
- ✓ Develop and advance a worker-driven policy platform
- ✓ Share lessons with partners around the state and country

### Contact

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