Inner cities are defined as those meeting the following criteria for cities with populations of 75,000 or higher:

- Poverty rate of 20% or higher
- Unemployment rate of at least 1.5x the MSA rate
- Median household income of at least 1.5x the MSA rate
- OR
- Poverty rate of 50% or higher
- Unemployment rate of at least 1.5x the MSA rate
- Median household income of at least 1.5x the MSA rate

Poverty rates, unemployment rate and median household income exclude currently enrolled graduate and undergraduate students.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2007-11.

©2016 Initiative for a Competitive Inner City. For more information contact Liz Holden: eholden@icic.org.