People are impacted by the pressures of living in poverty on a daily basis. It's vital to understand the role that oppressive institutions and policies play in creating endless challenges for millions of pet owners and, disproportionately, for people of color. Of the 40.6 million United States residents living in poverty as of 2016 (percentage by race):

- 26.2% - American Indian/Alaska Native
- 22.0% - African American
- 19.4% - Latino/Latina
- 10.1% - Asian
- 8.8% - White, non-Hispanic
- 8.8% - Multiracial

Note: The majority (63%) of the total population is white.

Pets for Life, a program of the Humane Society of the United States, addresses inequity and the lack of access to pet resources people experience in underserved communities through community outreach and pet owner support services. The program philosophy recognizes that a love for pets transcends socioeconomic boundaries, and no one should be denied the opportunity to experience the benefits and joy that come from the human-animal bond.

**SOURCES:**
- *U.S. Census Bureau’s 2016 estimates*
- *The National Low Income Housing Coalition*
- *Pew Research Center*
- *The Federal Reserve Survey of Consumer Finances*
- *National Center for Educational Statistics*
- *U.S. Department of Education*
- *Bureau of Justice Statistics*
- *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.*