

# Nearly 25% of San Jose Residents Now Live in Poverty

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SAN JOSE (KCBS) -- San Jose leaders want to increase awareness about the number of people living in poverty in one of the wealthiest areas of the country.



KCBS' Mike Colgan reports

Greg Kepferle, CEO of Catholic Charities, said a quarter of the population in Silicon Valley is now living in poverty.

"It's no longer the cost of food. It's the cost of housing, the cost of healthcare, the cost of transportation that really drives the federal poverty rate a lot higher," he said. "In this county, it's three-times the federal rate."

"The reality is that people have to make those tradeoffs," said Kepferle. "Do I pay the rent, or do I pay for my medication. Do I pay for the gas, or do I pay to get my kid into childcare. That's affecting almost 25% of the population."

He told KCBS even affluent areas of the city are starting to see the homeless.

San Jose City Councilman Ash Kalra has challenged residents to live up to the Silicon Valley reputation.

"With Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday a couple days away, I think it's particularly important for all of us to engage in ending poverty," said Kalra. "Certainly, in Silicon Valley, we pride ourselves on being creative. We pride ourselves on being successful, and energetic, and having initiative."

Anyone wishing to give time or donations should contact their local shelter, food bank, or other homeless assistance organization.

<http://www.kcbs.com/Nearly-25--of-San-Jose-Residents-Now-Live-in-Pover/6106469>