Speaker 1: The Disability and Philanthropy Forum presents Rebecca Vallas, senior fellow at the Century Foundation and co-director of the Disability Economic Justice Collaborative.

Speaker 2: A core promise of the ADA was economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities. And yet, 32 years after the ADA became law, people with disabilities in the US face poverty rates that are twice as high as non-disabled people. Food insecurity rates, meaning not being able to afford adequate food three times higher than non-disabled people, and people with disabilities make up more than half of people in this country who turn to homeless shelters on any given night, which is not a perfect statistic for who is unhoused, but helps us have a sense of how disproportionately it is people with disabilities. This is a widespread permanent recession that we have been seeing among the disability community in the United States. And I want to be clear, it's not only 32 years after the ADA that we're grappling with these horrible and shameful figures. This is prior to the COVID pandemic which only exacerbated these disparities. And so I just want to acknowledge as we have today's conversation that a widespread economic crisis among Americans with disabilities is one of the many social ills that we normalized prior to the COVID pandemic.

Speaker 1: To continue your learning journey, visit disabilityphilanthropy.org.