

# Equitable Development: The Path to an All-In Pittsburgh

## Summary

Pittsburgh is a city on the rise, yet too many residents remain cut off from opportunity by poverty, structural racism, and discrimination. Local leaders must implement a targeted, intentional strategy for equitable development to ensure all can thrive in the new Pittsburgh. PolicyLink, Neighborhood Allies, and Urban Innovation21 convened dozens of Pittsburgh community leaders to create a shared definition of **equitable development** and craft an agenda to make it the reality.

**Equitable development** is a positive development strategy that ensures everyone participates in and benefits from the region's economic transformation—especially low-income residents, communities of color, immigrants, and others at risk of being left behind. It requires an intentional focus on eliminating racial inequities and barriers, and making accountable and catalytic investments to assure that lower-wealth residents:

- live in healthy, safe, opportunity-rich neighborhoods that reflect their culture (and are not displaced from them);
- connect to economic and ownership opportunities; and
- have voice and influence in the decisions that shape their neighborhoods.

*Equitable Development: The Path to an All-In Pittsburgh* presents the following agenda to put all of the region's residents on track to reaching their potential.

### I. **Raise the bar for new development.**

1. Set equitable development goals, performance metrics, and a reporting framework.
2. Require publicly supported projects to advance equitable development.
3. Ensure accountability through monitoring and enforcement.

### II. **Make all neighborhoods healthy communities of opportunity.**

4. Implement the city's Affordable Housing Task Force recommendations.
5. Track and monitor neighborhood opportunity and change to continuously inform policy strategies.
6. Develop a community land trust strategy.
7. Use publicly owned land for equitable development.
8. Invest in resident-driven art, culture, and enterprise.
9. Support community schools, neighborhood safety, and justice.

### III. **Expand employment and ownership opportunities.**

10. Implement targeted racial equity strategies as part of the Inclusive Innovation Roadmap.
11. Leverage anchor institution spending to support inclusive business development.

### IV. **Embed racial equity throughout Pittsburgh's institutions and businesses.**

12. Adopt a racial equity focus within government.
13. Advance equity, diversity, and inclusion in the business community.

### V. **Build community power, voice, and capacity.**

14. Support multiracial, cross-sector collective action for equitable development.
15. Ensure sustainable funding for neighborhood-based organizations and development strategies.
16. Fund tenant organizing and resident leadership development.

Read the full report:

[www.policylink.org/all-in-cities/pittsburgh](http://www.policylink.org/all-in-cities/pittsburgh)

For more information, contact Sarah Treuhaft at [sarah@policylink.org](mailto:sarah@policylink.org) or Shad Henderson at [shad@neighborhoodallies.org](mailto:shad@neighborhoodallies.org).

©2016 PolicyLink. All rights reserved.