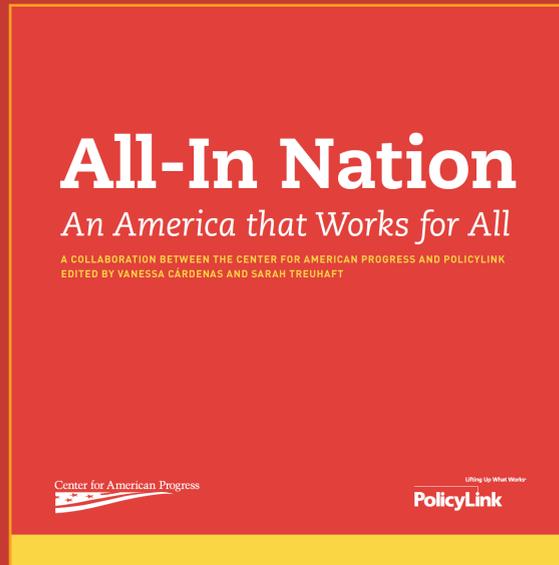


Equity Is the Superior Growth Model for an All-In Nation

Lifting Up What Works®

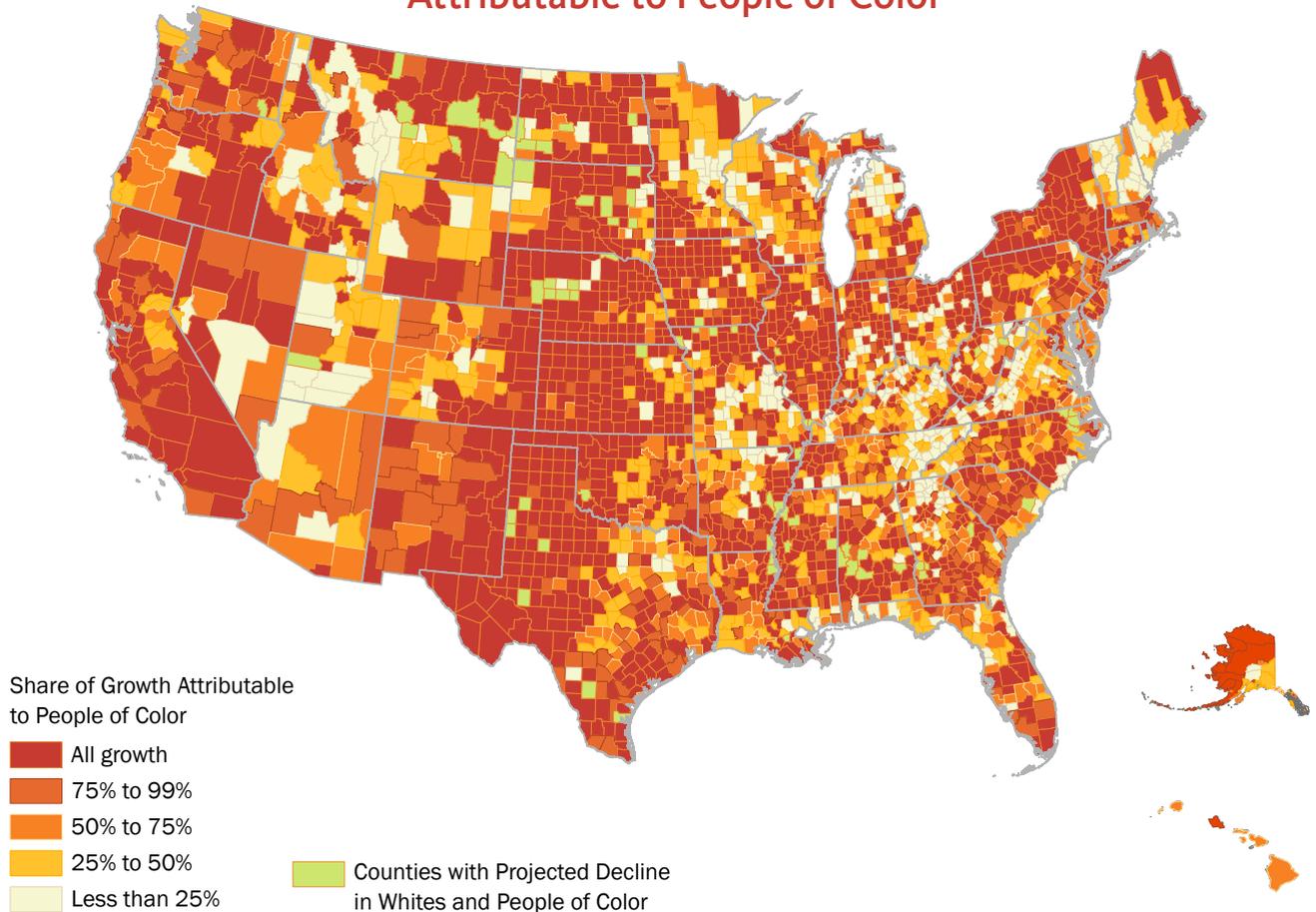
PolicyLink



All-In Nation: An America that Works for All, a new book by PolicyLink and the Center for American Progress, embraces America's transformation into a majority people-of-color nation by 2043 and presents a policy blueprint to create an economy that works for everyone. For the last 15 years, PolicyLink has been advocating for economic and social equity for all and believes that equity is the superior growth model to secure a bright future for our nation.

People of Color are Driving America's Population Growth

Projected Population Growth from 2010 to 2040
Attributable to People of Color



Map created by PolicyLink and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) using data from the 2010 Decennial Census, Woods & Poole Economics projections data (adjusted using 2010 census data), Census TIGER/Line, NHGIS, and ESRI.

How PolicyLink Achieves Equity

Equity is just and fair inclusion into a society in which all, including all racial and ethnic groups, can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Equity gives all people a just and fair shot in life despite historic patterns of racial and economic exclusion.

Since 1999, PolicyLink has championed equity for low-income people and people of color by promoting policies that create opportunity-rich, healthy communities. Working with local and national leaders, we are advancing efforts to build more equitable transportation and water systems, improve access to healthy food, create good jobs, secure affordable housing, and nurture the academic potential of all children from cradle to career. And we are bringing local models to scale through innovative federal programs such as the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, Promise Neighborhoods Initiative, and Sustainable Communities Initiative.

The Economic Imperative of Equity

Equity is not only a moral imperative—it is also an economic one. Economists now recognize that inequality hinders economic growth and that greater economic inclusion brings about more robust economic growth. Research in the United States, for example, has shown that greater economic and racial equality in metropolitan regions corresponds with more robust growth and longer periods of growth.

To compete in the global economy, America's emerging people-of-color majority must be able to contribute fully as leaders, workers, innovators, and entrepreneurs. If we do not boost the education and skills of our fastest-growing groups, we will not meet the nation's workforce needs. By 2018, 45 percent of all jobs in the United States will require higher education—at least an associate's degree. But among today's workers only 27 percent of African Americans, 26 percent of U.S.-born Latinos, and 14 percent of Latino immigrants have that level of education.

Equity Is the Superior Growth Model

America's current economic model is broken. Even before the recession, the United States was experiencing slow job growth, stagnant wages, increasing racial and income inequality, and a shrinking middle class. As we bolt toward a more multiracial future, the nation needs a new type of growth model—one that is inclusive, sustainable, and just.

An equity-driven growth model would focus on growth *and* equity: growing new jobs and new businesses while ensuring that all—including low-income people and people of color—can fully participate in generating that growth and fully share in its benefits. Ultimately, the private sector must take the lead in producing economic growth that is truly inclusive. But leaders in the public and community sectors must set up the right framework of policies, investments, incentives, and strategies to guide that growth.

Our Policy Agenda for an Equitable Economy

PolicyLink recommends three broad policy priorities for building an equitable economy:

- 1. GROW GOOD JOBS** by maximizing the equity and growth returns from public spending and investment, improving the pay and quality of low-wage jobs, and expanding entrepreneurship opportunities among people of color.
- 2. BUILD HUMAN CAPABILITIES** by upgrading the education and skills of our diverse workforce and ensuring all children can realize their full potential in the world of work.
- 3. ERASE BARRIERS AND EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES** by dismantling racial barriers to economic inclusion and civic participation, building pipelines to high-quality jobs, and implementing place-based strategies and investments to create communities of opportunity.

Equity Is a Win-Win Proposition

An equity approach not only solves the challenges of those who are left the farthest behind—it solves the nation's challenges. Increasing the pay of low-wage workers reduces turnover, improves productivity, and ultimately creates more jobs by boosting purchasing power. Training skilled, racially diverse health-care workers who can effectively reach vulnerable communities prevents disease and lowers the cost of health care. Ensuring low-income homeowners do not lose their homes to foreclosure stabilizes neighborhoods and reduces city service burdens. And so on. The global economy is not a zero-sum game; integrating equity into our economic strategies creates more opportunities for everyone.

Join us in building an equitable economy and nation

In addition to our work to promote equity as the superior growth model, PolicyLink is home to two centers: the PolicyLink Center for Infrastructure Equity and the PolicyLink Center for Health Equity and Place. These centers conduct research, advocate for fair and inclusive policies, and provide community and grassroots leaders, advocates, and public officials with tools, training, and consultation.

Recent publications include:

- *Equity and the Future of the American Economy*
 - *Economic and Community Development Outcomes of Healthy Food Retail*
 - *Community Engagement Guide for Sustainable Communities*
 - *America's Tomorrow: Equity Is the Superior Growth Model*
 - *America's Tomorrow bi-weekly newsletter*
 - *Getting Equity Advocacy Results*
 - *Insecure Communities: Latino Perceptions of Police Involvement in Immigration Enforcement*
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Learn more at www.policylink.org.

Download *All-In Nation: An America that Works for All* at www.allinnation.org.

Lifting Up What Works®

PolicyLink

PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity by Lifting Up What Works®.

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