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PolicyLink Releases the Nation's First Comprehensive Racial Equity Blueprint for Federal Agencies

New report provides resources, tools, and plan for federal agency leaders to implement President's historic executive order on advancing racial equity

PolicyLink urges Biden Administration to double down on commitment to centering equity in federal government's decision-making

OAKLAND, CA — Today, leading research and action institute [PolicyLink](#) released the nation's first comprehensive racial equity blueprint for federal agencies, [For Love of Country: A Path for the Federal Government to Advance Racial Equity](#). Produced in partnership with equity movement leaders, federal officials, and policy advocates, the new report includes a plan and suite of tools to aid the federal government's implementation of President Biden's [executive order](#) calling for a bold "whole-of-government equity agenda." PolicyLink will select 3-5 agencies to participate in a pilot to adopt these recommendations.

"The events of the past year were a worst case scenario for the 100 million people living in economic insecurity - and only exacerbated the country's deep racial and economic disparities. We cannot afford to go back to a time when this was considered normal," said **Michael McAfee, President and CEO of PolicyLink**. "While racial equity has long been an urgent issue, the ongoing challenges our country faces amid a historic movement for social justice offers a critical opportunity to launch committed, long-term action. A more just America is possible, and empowered by a deep love for this country and all who live here, we can pursue the true work of our democracy. The Biden Administration has made its mission to support all people clear through its commitment to advance racial equity. Today, we offer a way to accelerate this work."

In response to [calls from equity advocates](#), the White House took historic action in January when President Biden issued the Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. The Order authorizes federal agencies and entities to "pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all," including identifying ways to assess equity, conducting equity assessments, and promoting equitable delivery of government benefits and opportunities. However, a survey of former and current federal employees conducted by PolicyLink in May found that over 50 percent of respondents felt their agencies were not yet prepared to approach racial equity and needed resources to get started, while 70 percent agreed that advancing racial equity was a core responsibility of the federal government. Today's report will help agency leaders achieve the

vision set in the Executive Order and launch the federal government's long-term journey to racial equity.

Decades of research conducted by PolicyLink illustrate that race continues to be a determinant of socioeconomic outcomes, and the federal government is one of the most influential institutions to address the potential for equity. Across its many roles – from employing nine million people to spending more than \$4 trillion annually on programs, policies and regulations – the federal government influences nearly every economic and social issue. With [100 million people](#) (52m who are people of color and 48m who are white) living in economic insecurity in the United States, and after a year that worsened the country's racial and economic disparities, it is imperative that the federal government understand how to effectively address structures and systems that led to the challenges the nation confronts today. PolicyLink's report provides leaders with an understanding of how centering racial equity will ultimately improve the well-being and development of all Americans, in addition to strengthening the economy and democracy.

[*For Love of Country: A Path for the Federal Government to Advance Racial Equity*](#) also details:

- Several key roles the federal government can use to shape racial equity
- The transformative potential equity presents for key socioeconomic outcomes
- Guiding principles that can serve as a common foundation for the work across the federal government
- A starter tool for conducting and refining an initial equity assessment
- A tool for agencies to develop a strategic vision and action plan to advance equity, and guidance on how to launch this journey

To view the executive summary, report, and guide, please click [here](#).

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PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing racial and economic equity by Lifting Up What Works®. Our mission is to ensure all people in America—particularly those who face the burdens of structural racism—can participate in a just society, live in a healthy community of opportunity, and prosper in an equitable economy. Our guiding ethos is Equity—the just and fair inclusion into a society in which all of us can participate, prosper, and reach our full potential. Visit [PolicyLink.org](#) for more information.