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2018 Equity Profile of Sacramento Highlights the Potential of a More Equitable Economy

SACRAMENTO, CA — Today, the Healthy Sacramento Coalition released a report, [*Advancing Health Equity and Inclusive Growth in the Sacramento Region*](#), highlighting inequities in income, employment, education and opportunity in Sacramento. Sacramento was one of five cities in the nation to be selected for this scan and report which was developed by PolicyLink and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity at USC, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

“The Healthy Sacramento Coalition is made up of 42 organizations with a mission is to eliminate racialized health inequities in Sacramento through movements that advance policy and system change resulting in neighborhood impact,” said Stephanie Bray, co-chair Healthy Sacramento Coalition and President and CEO, United Way California Capital Region . “This report looks at the importance of measuring the equitable impact of policies in our region and a vision of inclusion and prosperity for all.”

The equity profile was released with a policy brief titled [*Health Equity Now: Toward an All-In Sacramento*](#) outlining potential solutions which will serve as a unique resource for local advocates and residents seeking to address disinvestment in communities of color. To this end, PolicyLink and the Healthy Sacramento Coalition held a panel discussion and community forum on equity in Sacramento with Mayor Darrell Steinberg and Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna. The equity profile and policy brief can be viewed at the [Healthy Sacramento Coalition’s web page](#).

“The region is successful when we all have a stake in the economy and when all residents have access to housing, employment, quality healthcare and education,” said Chet P. Hewitt, President and CEO, Sierra Health Foundation. “Unfortunately, because of antiquated structures and policies, opportunity is out of reach for too many people in Sacramento.”

Since 2011, PolicyLink and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity have engaged in a formal partnership to amplify the message that equity—just and fair inclusion—is both a moral imperative and the key to our nation’s economic prosperity as America’s demographics shift and communities of color emerge as the new majority. *An Equity Profile of Sacramento* underscores that while the city demonstrates overall strength and resilience, gaps in income, employment, education and opportunity by race and geography place its economic future at risk. Diverse groups are driving growth and change in the region and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. And while the nation is projected to become majority people of color by 2044, Sacramento will reach that milestone in the early 2020s.

“The demographics of Sacramento make advancing equity much more than just a moral imperative,” said James Crowder, Senior Associate, PolicyLink. “In truth, equity is in the best interest of the region’s economy.”

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Other key findings in the report include:

- If racial gaps in income were eliminated, Sacramento's GDP would have been \$19 billion higher in 2014.
- Latino workers are more than three times as likely as White workers to be among the working poor.
- People of color are disproportionately likely to be rent burdened, with 64 percent of Black renters paying more than 30 percent of their incomes in rent, and 59 percent of Latinos also feeling the same strain.
- In the Sacramento metro area, 24 percent of jobs are low-wage, meaning they pay \$1,250 per month or less, but only 18 percent of rental units are affordable, even to households with two wage earners.

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PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity by Lifting Up What Works®. For more information, visit www.PolicyLink.org

Healthy Sacramento Coalition works to eliminate racialized health inequities in Sacramento through advocacy and convening of resources that advances policy and system change resulting in neighborhood impact. For more information, visit www.sierrahealth.org/healthysacramento

Sierra Health Foundation forges new paths to promote health and racial equity in partnership with communities, organizations and leaders. For more information, visit www.sierrahealth.org