# **Healing through Policy: Creating Pathways to Racial Justice**

# **ECONOMY: AN OVERVIEW**



"Healing Through Policy: Creating Pathways to Racial Justice" is a national initiative that offers local leaders a suite of policies and practices to move communities and policymakers from commitment to action for health, racial equity, and justice.

Local leaders can adopt and implement all or some of the policies and practices curated through the initiative to help promote racial healing and address social inequities.

These options are guided by the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation framework, which offers an overarching comprehensive strategy for adaptation by local communities and organizations to support progress toward needed systemic transformation. The framework addresses the foundational components of Narrative Change, Racial Healing and Relationship Building, Separation, Law, and Economy.

<u>Healing Through Policy</u> is an initiative of the American Public Health Association, the de Beaumont Foundation, and the National Collaborative for Health Equity.

### **Economy**

Economy involves the implementation and proliferation of opportunity systems that exploit and oppress people of color for the financial gain of others. By imposing systemic barriers to economic opportunities, these policies and practices sustain the false belief in a hierarchy of human value. These barriers perpetuate and validate the biased valuations of people based on their race and ethnicity, with devastating impacts.

#### POLICIES AND PRACTICES UNDER THE ECONOMY PILLAR:

- Income and asset strategies to promote economic mobility of individuals and families of color.
- Equitable investment and development that prioritizes community voice and assets.
- Compensatory redress to rectify historical injustices that economically disadvantage communities of color.

#### **STORIES OF SUCCESS:**

- In Ohio, the Cuyahoga County Down
   Payment Assistance Program run
   through Neighborhood Housing
   Services of Greater Cleveland provides
   down payment assistance of up to 17%
   of the total transaction cost.
- Baltimore created an Equity Assistance
  Fund a dedicated, non-lapsing
  funding stream to support racial
  equity in housing, access to education,
  redressing past inequities in the capital
  budget, and addressing structural
  racism.
- Albuquerque, New Mexico recognizes
   Tribal sovereignty and self determination for tribal governments
   and requires the city to establish

a government-to-government relationship between the city and the surrounding pueblos and Tribes. The law mandates regular consultation with tribal governments on actions that affect federally recognized Tribal governments and to assess the impact of city programs on tribal communities. It also increases the size of the city commission from five to nine members, with additional members required to be representatives chosen by the Tribal nations.

## **RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Economic Policy Institute: Minimum/Living Wage

Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE): "Equitable Development as a Tool to Advance Racial Equity"

Racial Equity Tools: Compensatory Redress

For more information about Healing Through Policy, visit apha.org/healing-through-policy.