Structural Racism & Poverty

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What does APN do?

**Mission:** to prevent, reduce, and end poverty in NJ by empowering partners, educating the community, and advocating for solutions.

**Activities:**

- Regular meetings to share information;
- Annual Poverty Summit to energize and educate partners;
- Communications Work
- Research
- Joint advocacy efforts, like the development of the **State Rental Assistance Program.**
Who is APN?

The Anti-Poverty Network is a coalition of diverse groups committed to work together on shared concerns.

- Service providers
- Community groups
- Advocates
- Faith Communities
- Labor Unions
- Business partners
- Government representatives
- Individuals, including those with lived experience of poverty
THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH:
RACISM, INJUSTICE, AND POVERTY
IN NEW JERSEY

– A Call To Action –

Produced by the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey
and the Structural Racism and Poverty Working Group
With generous support from The Fund For New Jersey

September 2017
Structural Racism:

**NO**
- Not intentional preferential treatment of one group over another
- Not prejudice or expressions of overt racism

**YES**
- Disparate access to opportunity that is imbedded in the social structures
- Result of historical conscious and unintentional policies, decision, and programs
Systematic Solutions

- Make addressing structural racism an explicit public priority in New Jersey.
- Enact legislation requiring racial impact statements for all state legislation and rule-making with potential disparate impacts.
- Require data collection and dissemination by race/ethnicity and socio-economic status.
- Reinstate the independent Public Advocate Office.
- Strengthen the State Division of Civil Rights
Timeline for the Structural Racism and Poverty Report

February 12, 2015
Invitation to all Community Partners

March 24, 2015
1st Meeting of the Racism and Poverty Working Group

April 27, 2015
Beyond Diversity Training

May 27, 2015
Divided into Six Working Subgroups

Summer Intern Listening Sessions During Summer of 2015

August 2015 – June 2017
Working Group and Sub Groups Meet

October 2016 to August 2017
Editor

September 19, 2017
Report Release
Specific Policy Recommendations

- ECONOMIC JUSTICE
  - $15 Minimum Wage / Livable Wage
  - Tax Justice – Wealthy pay their fair share / EITC & CTC expansion
Specific Policy Recommendations

○ CRIMINAL JUSTICE

○ Require Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements for legislation
○ Legalize, regulate and tax marijuana
  ● Voting Rights
  ● Sentencing and Parole Minimums
Specific Policy Recommendations

- LEGAL AND CIVIL PROTECTIONS

- Increase funding for legal representation of low-income defendants
- Institute local civilian complaint review boards to increase oversight and accountability of police departments and officers
Data map by Steve Sterling, NJ.com
Data map by Steve Sterling, NJ.com
Specific Policy Recommendations

HOUSING

2. To the greatest extent possible, the state should implement a “carrot and stick” approach to eliminating racism.

a. Such an approach would allocate and distribute an enhanced amount of state funds and resources — such as school aid, road maintenance funding, etc. — as well as discretionary federal funds, to those communities which meaningfully, substantially and measurably promote inclusion and integration, address environmental injustice, and affirmatively further fair housing. Conversely, exclusionary and/or segregated municipalities, which do not facilitate the actual provision of affordable housing in ways that reduce neighborhood segregation and significantly expand inclusion and integration, should have receipt of any such funding severely curtailed.

b. State and local Consolidated Plans and Action Plans must adopt policies that limit the allocation of CDBG, HOME and other federal funds to governmental units that meaningfully and significantly AFFH (for instance, by adopting and implementing some of the overlay zones and other approaches described below).
Specific Policy Recommendations

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- Provide enhanced resources and support directly to poor families:
  - a. Continuing efforts to enhance the services and supports provided to families with child welfare involvement:
    - i. Strengthening funding and services for family stabilization (especially housing assistance and flexible subsidies for economic need) to reduce out-of-home placements; and
    - ii. Reducing financial and logistical/regulatory barriers to placement in Kinship Legal Guardianship, when out-of-home placement is necessary.
  - b. Strengthening the capacity of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program to provide assistance to the poorest children:
    - i. Increase maximum grant and eligibility levels over time to above 50% of the federal poverty level, and ensure annual adjustments going forward; and
    - ii. Remove the punitive family cap policy to ensure all extremely poor children have access to cash assistance.
Specific Policy Recommendations

- **HEALTH, HUNGER, & MENTAL HEALTH**

- Support the expansion and annual implementation of School Breakfast both fiscally and administratively. By investing state funds to reinstate annual funding of the program, New Jersey can provide fiscal incentives to districts to adopt a “Breakfast After the Bell” approach to school breakfast and increase participation by eligible students.
Next Steps

- Promote the report through media and APN membership
- 6 statewide community forums beginning in April 2018 on each of the broad policy areas identified in the report
- Work with state leaders, legislators, and stakeholders on implementing recommendations from the report
Economic hardship: surprisingly common

% of Americans who have experienced economic hardship at some point in their lives, by the time they reach...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Received public assistance</th>
<th>Experienced unemployment</th>
<th>Lived below or near the poverty line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These people have received public assistance, been unemployed, or lived at least a year below 150% of the poverty line. The likelihood of experiencing each of those situations by age 60:

Source: Mark H. Kalk, Washington University, Panel Study of Income Dynamics
If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together....

Aboriginal Activist Sister
We Have What it Takes!

- Engagement skills
- Assessment skills
- Communication skills
- Problem solving and negotiation skills
- Networking and collaborating skills
- Commitment for the long haul
- Commitment to and belief in the possibility of change
- Interest in social justice and need for empowerment
- Systems perspective in understanding issues
- Ability to find common ground in disputes and disagreements
Resources:

- Anti-Poverty Network of NJ
  - www.antipovertynetwork.org

- The Uncomfortable Truth: Racism, Injustice and Poverty in New Jersey report
  - http://www.antipovertynetwork.org/The-Uncomfortable-Truth

- The Cost of Poverty report
  - http://www.antipovertynetwork.org/Cost-of-Poverty
Questions
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If you are interested in joining the Anti-Poverty Network, find out more at: www.antipovertynetwork.org

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