



Structural Racism & Poverty

Renee Koubiadis
Executive Director, Anti-Poverty Network of NJ

NEUAC Conference

June 28, 2018

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 –



September 2017

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



Structural Racism:

NO

- Not intentional preferential treatment of one group over another
- Not prejudice or expressions of overt racism

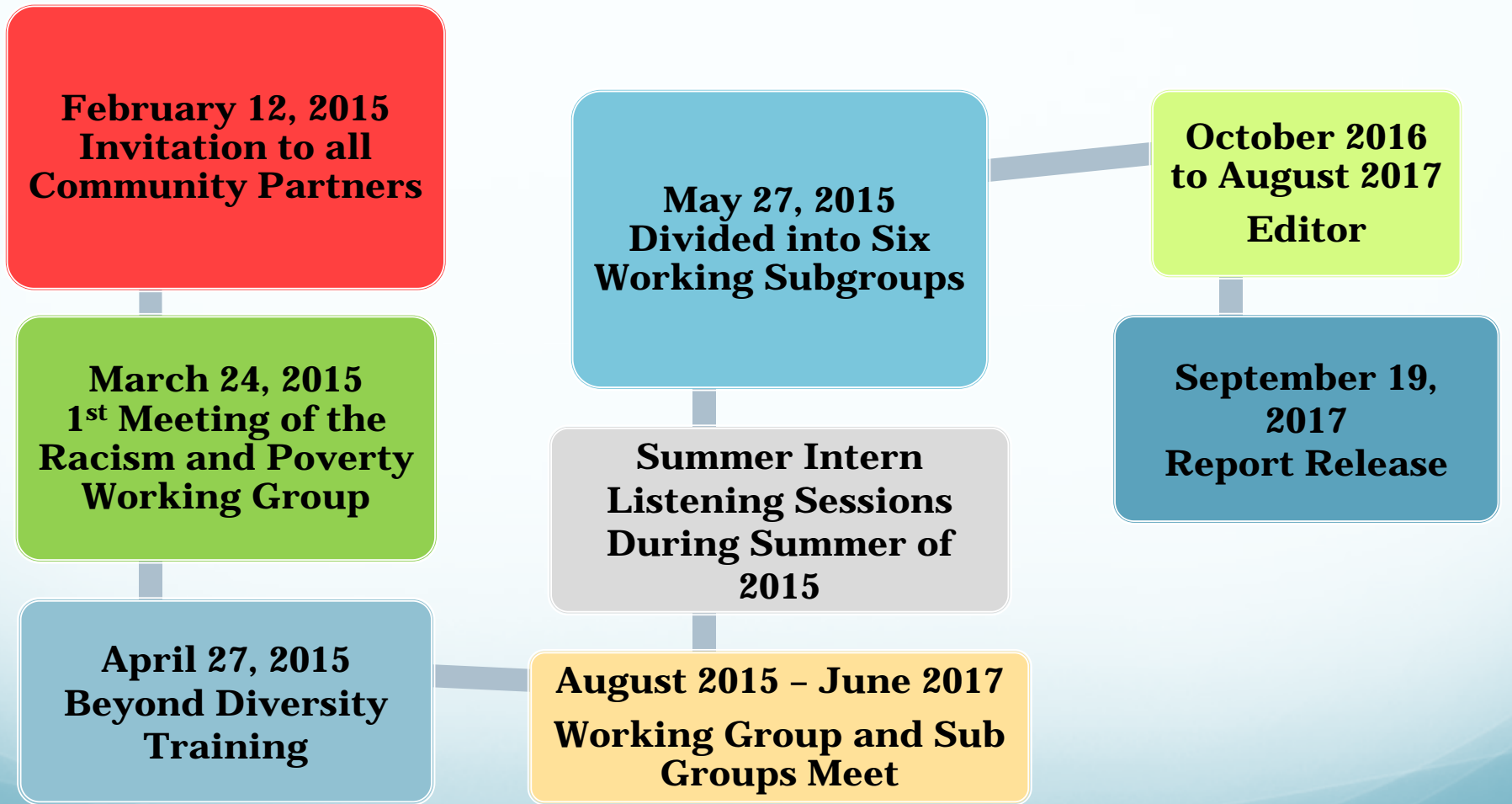
YES

- 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



Specific Policy Recommendations

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

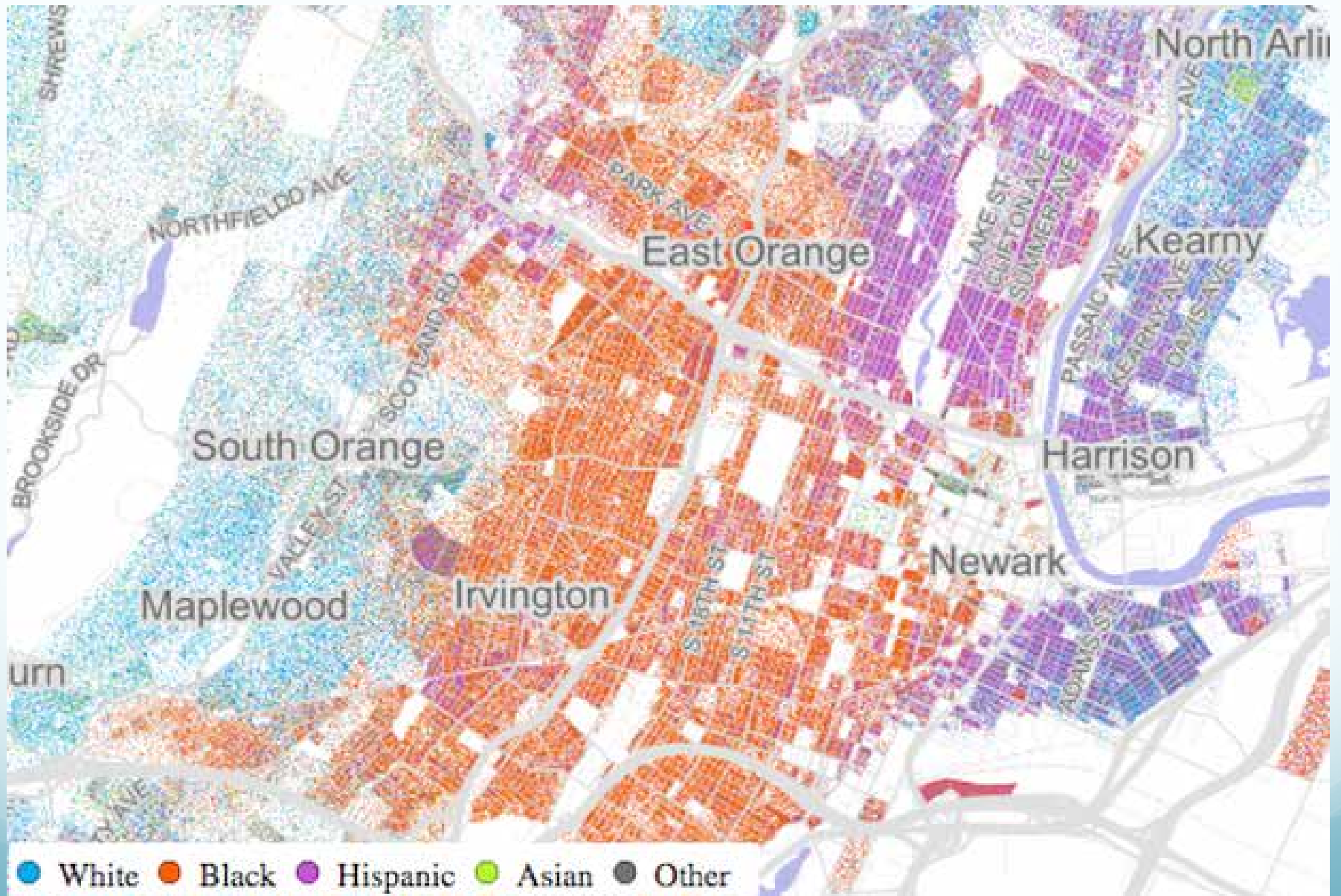
Specific Policy Recommendations

– **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

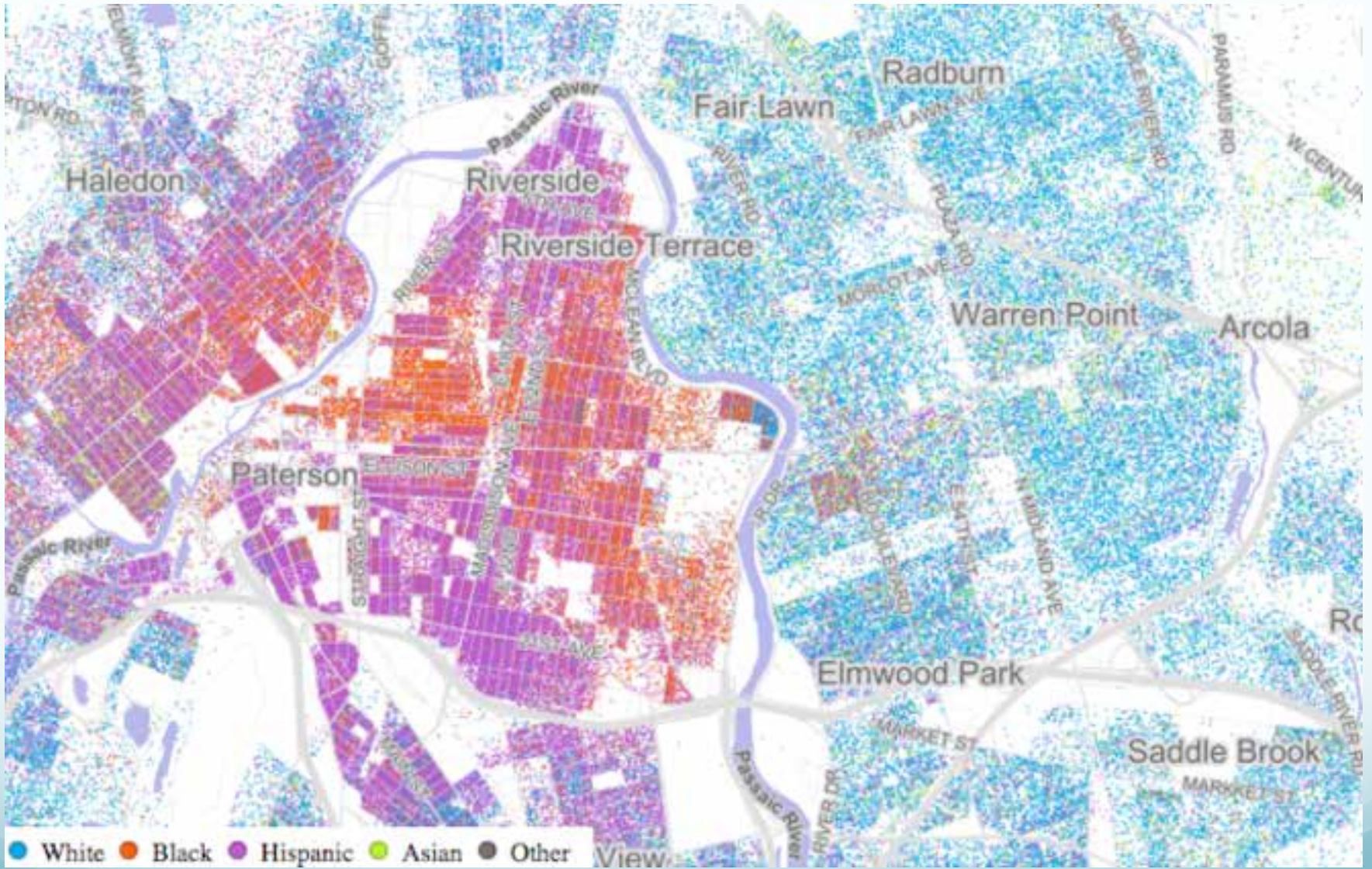
- **Require Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements for legislation**
- Legalize, regulate and tax marijuana
 - Voting Rights
 - Sentencing and Parole Minimums

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

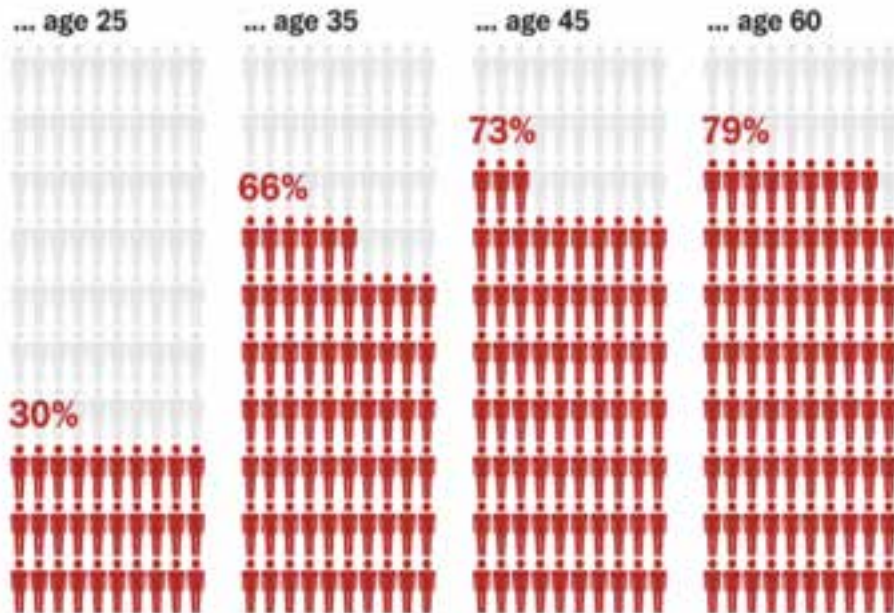
- **HEALTH, HUNGER, & MENTAL HEALTH**
- Support the expansion and annual implementation of School Breakfast both fiscally and administratively. By investing state funds to reinstate annual funding of the program, New Jersey can provide fiscal incentives to districts to **adopt a ““Breakfast After the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

Next Steps

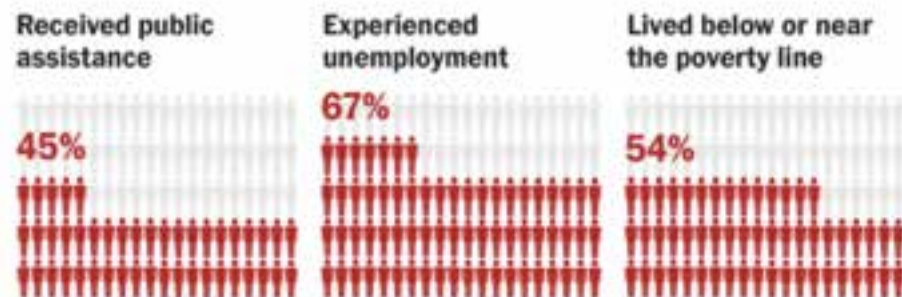
- Promote the report through media and APN membership
- 6 statewide community forums beginning in April 2018 on each of the broad policy areas identified in the report
- Work with state leaders, legislators, and stakeholders on implementing recommendations from the report

Economic hardship: surprisingly common

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



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:



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>
 - http://www.antipovertynetwork.org/resources/Documents/Summary_of_Recommendations_Final_-_Color.pdf
- The Cost of Poverty report
 - <http://www.antipovertynetwork.org/Cost-of-Poverty>

Questions





Renee Koubiadis: renee@antipovertynetwork.org

If you are interested in joining the Anti-Poverty Network, find out more at:
www.antipovertynetwork.org

Follow us on social media:

@NJAPN



@anti_poverty_nj

