



# Policy Tools for Rural Equity and Prosperity

A two-part webinar series with ChangeLab Solutions and the Geographic Health Equity Alliance (GHEA)

You are here

Wed. June 5 (90 min) @ 10 PT / 1 ET

## Part 1 - History, Impact, and Possibility

A grounding in core definitions and the historical developments of systemic and structural barriers to health, well-being, and prosperity in rural communities, followed by a menu of policy solutions trying to change the narrative.

Wed. June 12 (60 min) @ 11 PT / 2 ET

## Part 2 - Policy Development Process & Examples

A deeper dive into rural policy solutions—and the policy process itself—as tools for addressing structural barriers to health equity and prosperity. Process-focused examples from evidence-based policies in tobacco prevention and food systems.



# Geographic Health Equity Alliance

A  CADCA Initiative

[geohealthequity.org](http://geohealthequity.org)

# Learning Objectives

1. Define the history of structural discrimination in the United States and its role in rural communities
2. Recognize how past systemic and structural barriers and chronic disinvestment perpetuate deep rooted inequities today
3. Highlight community-driven rural policies that show promise to address structural barriers to health equity

# Agenda

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1. **About ChangeLab Solutions + Who's in the room**
2. History of structural discrimination
3. Present day impacts on health inequities in rural communities
4. Community driven rural policies as tools for change
5. Q&A





## Our mission

*Healthier communities  
for all through equitable  
laws & policies.*



# Speakers



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# Acknowledgements

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- Sara Bartel
- Jessica Breslin
- Erik Calloway
- Edgar Camero
- Chassidy Coffin
- Cesar De La Vega
- Amanda Fernandes
- Maya Hazarika-Watts
- Becky Johnson
- Kim Libman
- Greg Miao
- Jessica Nguyen
- Shauneequa Owusu
- Shannon Rempe
- Tyra Satchell
- Hollie Storie
- Melani Tiongson
- Carolyn Uno (Tigris)
- Kim Arroyo
- Williamson
- Heather Wong
- Chelsea Wu



“

*Health equity means everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences...”*

- Dr. Paula Braveman



## A Blueprint for Changemakers

*Achieving Health Equity Through Law & Policy*

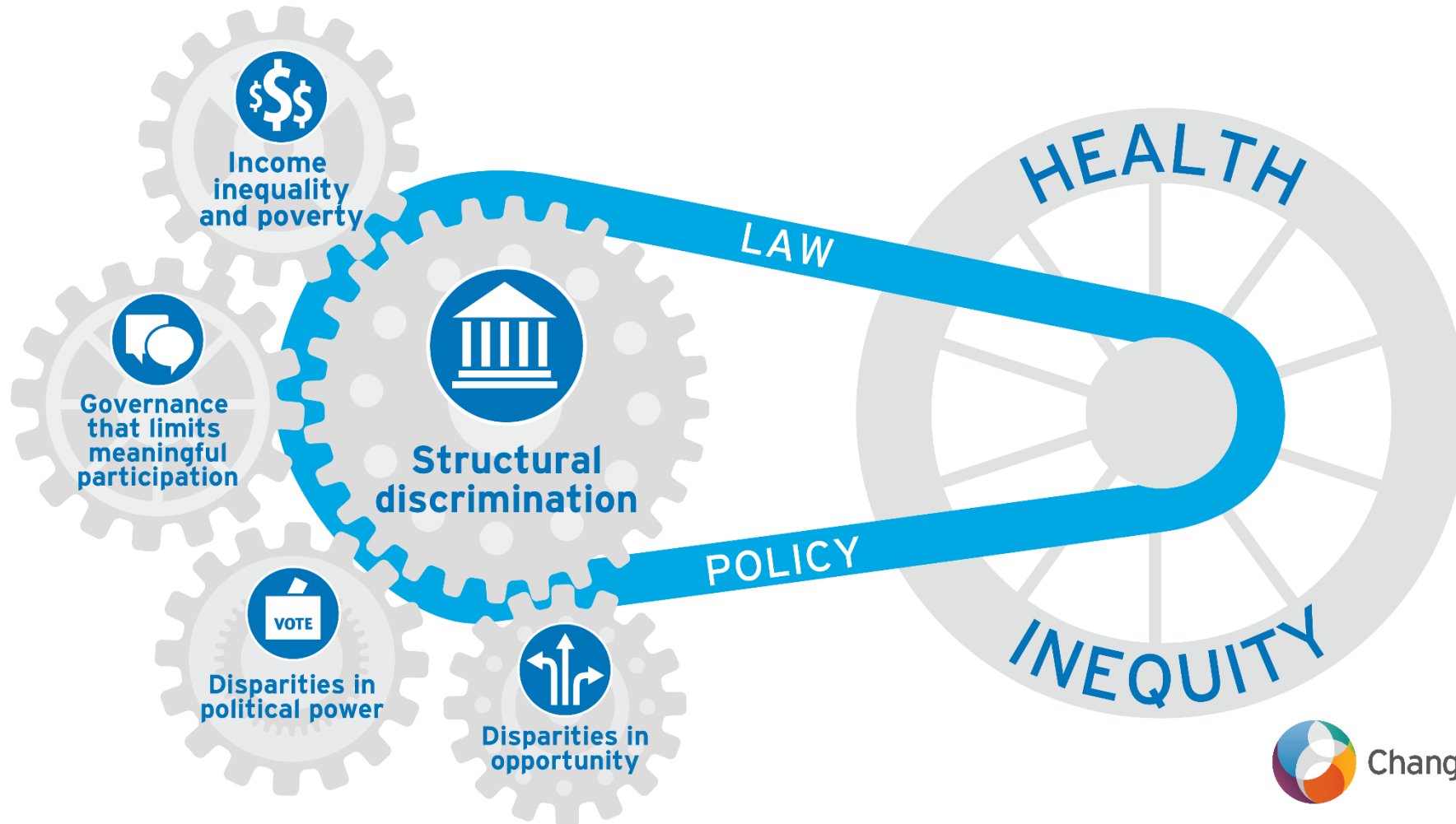


## A Blueprint for Changemakers

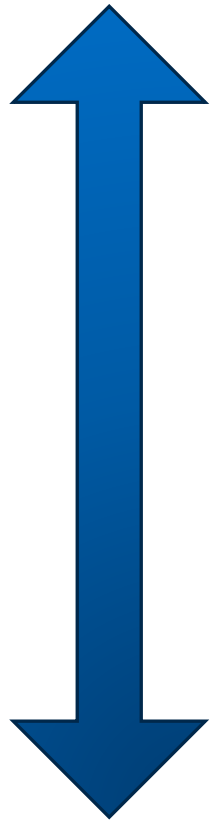
ChangeLab Solutions' **Blueprint for Changemakers** proposes that achieving health equity requires addressing structural barriers to health, which we call the fundamental drivers of health inequity

<https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/blueprint-changemakers>

# The Fundamental Drivers of Health Inequity



# Why we're here...



Rural Community Partnerships & Research  
+  
Fundamental Drivers of Health Inequity  
+  
Tools of Law & Policy  
+  
Legal History of Structural Racism  
+  
Tobacco / Cancer Prevention & Food Systems

# CDC Partnership Funding Disclaimer

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# Non-lobbying activities

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[Guidance on Anti-Lobbying Restrictions for CDC Grantees](#)



[Additional CDC Guidance](#)

# Commercial tobacco

We recognize the important role of ceremonial and traditional uses of tobacco in many Indigenous communities.

This conversation and the Preemption Playbook are intended to address **commercial tobacco**, not tobacco used as part of an Indigenous practice or other recognized religious or spiritual ceremonies or practices.

All references to tobacco and tobacco products here refer to commercial tobacco.



# Before we begin...

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- Challenging topics and politicized history
- Facing history versus asset-framing
- Professional and personal repercussions
- Differing truths
- Be self-aware
- Be aware of your impact





# Meeting Agreements

All voices are valued and should be heard. To promote a respectful, productive meeting, we will:

- 1. Create space for each other and avoid interrupting those who are speaking.** Participate fully and give priority to those who haven't spoken.
- 2. Listen actively, without distractions.** Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses.
- 3. Be thoughtful about language.** Use people-first language and preferred terminology. Speak from personal experience and avoid generalizations.
- 4. Do the work of understanding what kind of power dynamics we individually bring into the room.**

# Meeting Agreements, continued

5. **Be accepting of hands-on, active facilitation.**
6. **Assume good intentions from each other but understand the difference between intent and impact.** Acknowledge the existence of multiple truths.
7. **Understand the goal is not to always agree**—it is to gain a deeper understanding that can improve our work.

# Agenda

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1. About ChangeLab Solutions + Who's in the room
2. **History of structural discrimination**
3. Present day impacts on health inequities in rural communities
4. Community driven rural policies as tools for change
5. Q&A



# Familiar Timeline



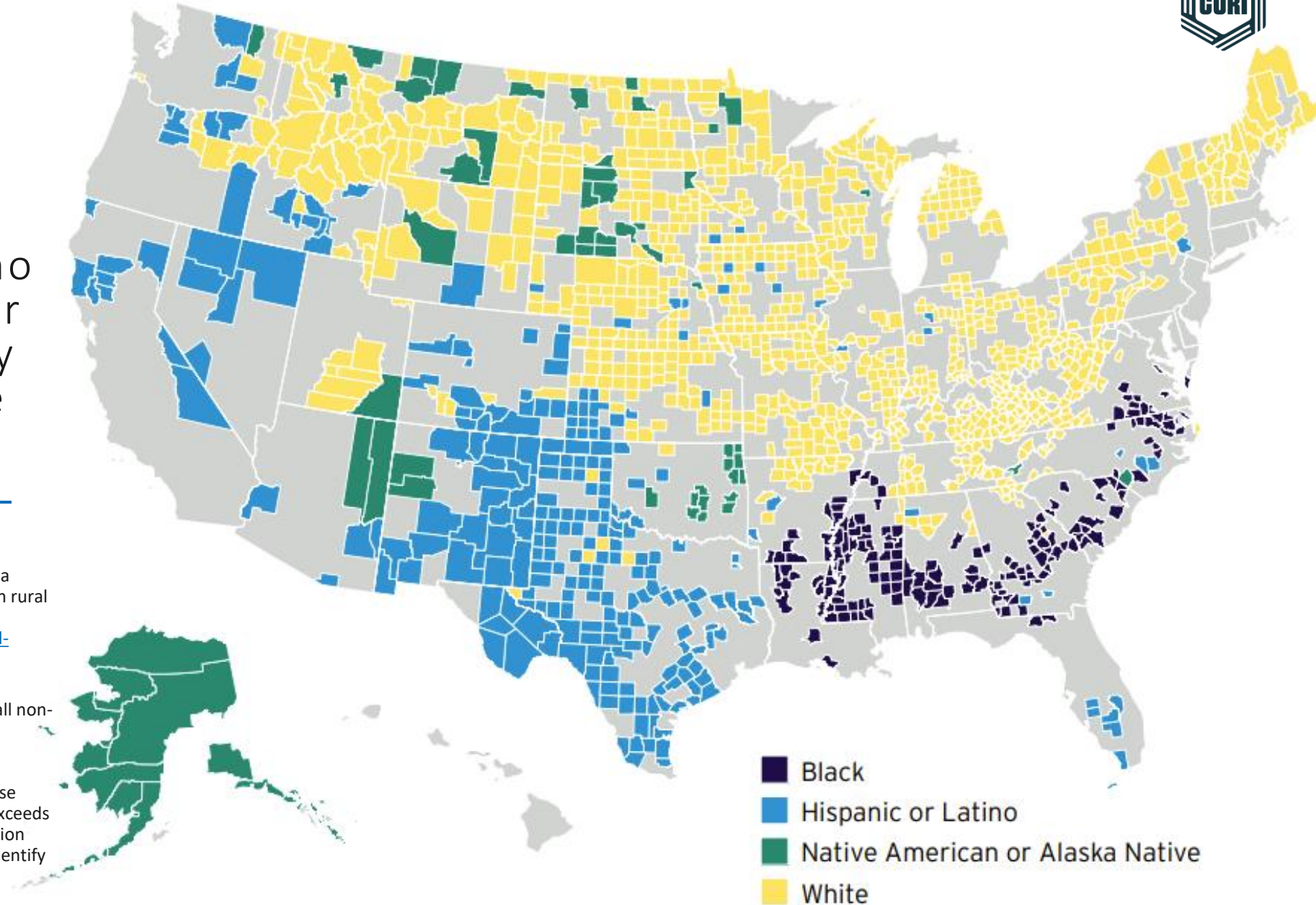
1. Chronic disinvestment in U.S. rural areas / resources
2. Tobacco & food industry influence in our communities
3. Structural discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and class

# Rural Counties Where Native Americans, Black People, and Hispanic and Latino People Account for Disproportionately Large Share of the Population

**Data source:** US Census Bureau, 2020 Census.

**Map source:** Who lives in rural America? How data shapes (and misshapes) conceptions of diversity in rural America. Center on Rural innovation website: <https://ruralinnovation.us/blog/who-lives-in-rural-america-part-i/>. January 12, 2023.

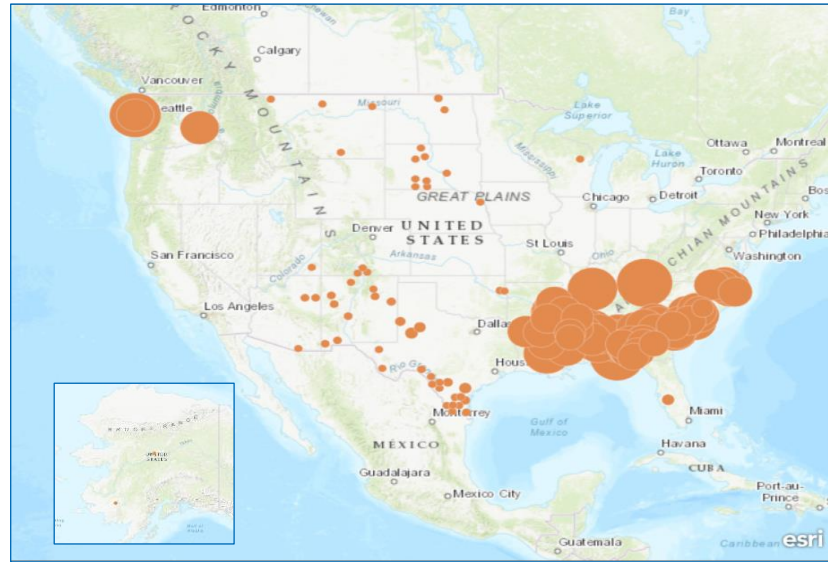
**Notes:** “Rural” refers to the US Management and Budget’s “non-metro” definition, which includes all non-metro counties (see <https://ruralinnovation.us/blog/defining-rural-america/#defining-rural-america-3> for details). “Disproportionately large” refers to counties whose population share, for a specified race/ethnicity, exceeds the median rural population share. Racial population counts include race alone, excluding those who identify as Hispanic or Latino.



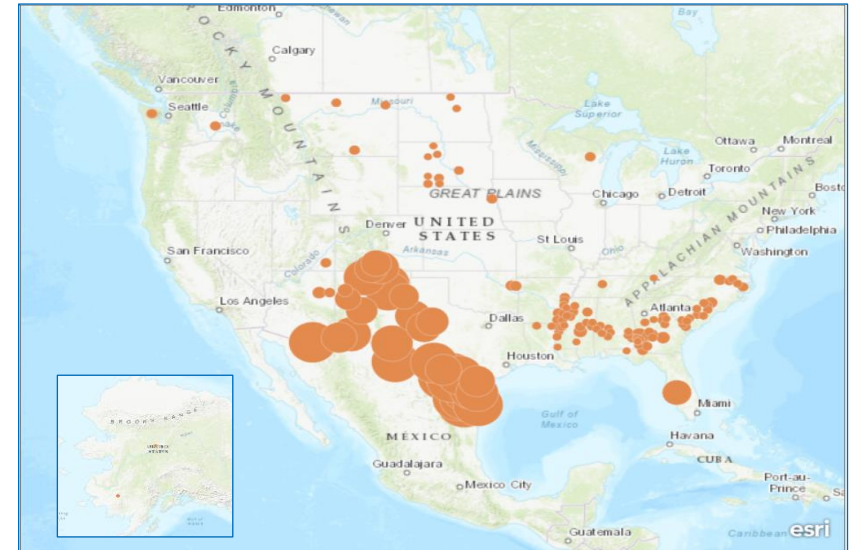
- Black
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native American or Alaska Native
- White

2019  
Rural BIPOC  
Counties  
Experiencing  
Persistent Poverty  
By Racial/Ethnic  
Group

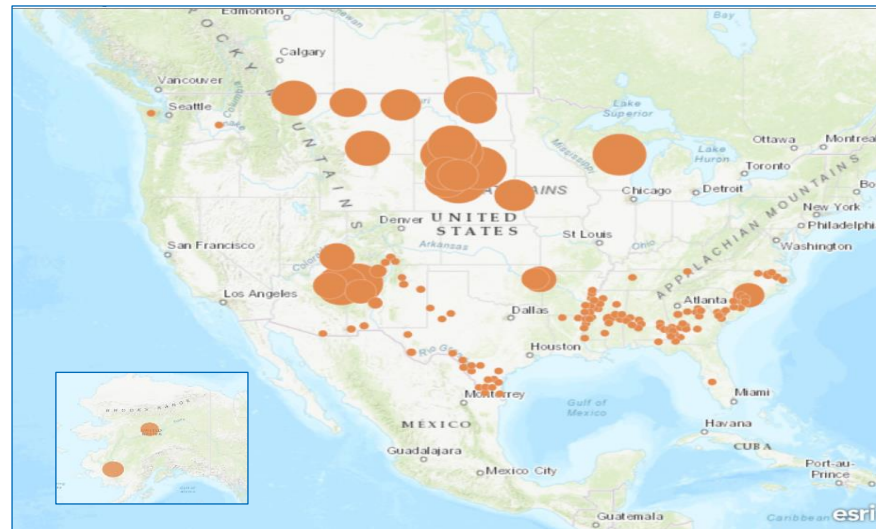
Percent of Black or African American  
Population



Percent of Latinx Population



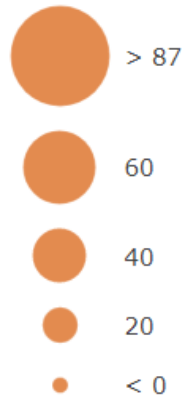
Percent of American Indian and Alaska  
Native Population



Percent of Asian Population



**Rural BIPOC  
Persistent  
Poverty Counties**



Total Percent of  
Respective  
Population

“It is important to consider the fundamental intersectionality of **place** (spatial equity), **race** (racial equity), and **class** (income inequality) as dimensions of discrimination when thinking about and developing solutions to address equity in rural communities.”

“The compounding effect of these dimensions is most acutely felt by BIPOC experiencing persistent poverty in rural communities.”

## Advancing Racial Equity in Rural Communities

Source:

<https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/rural-policymaking>

p. 3

# A Legal History of Structural Racism Project Highlights

- CDC Partnership for research and conversations (disclaimer applies)
- Expert advisory committee
- Interviews and legal research, examples
- Ongoing review and partnership with advisors
- Connection to [Public Health Law Academy](#)
- Tailored for non-legal audiences







# Racism

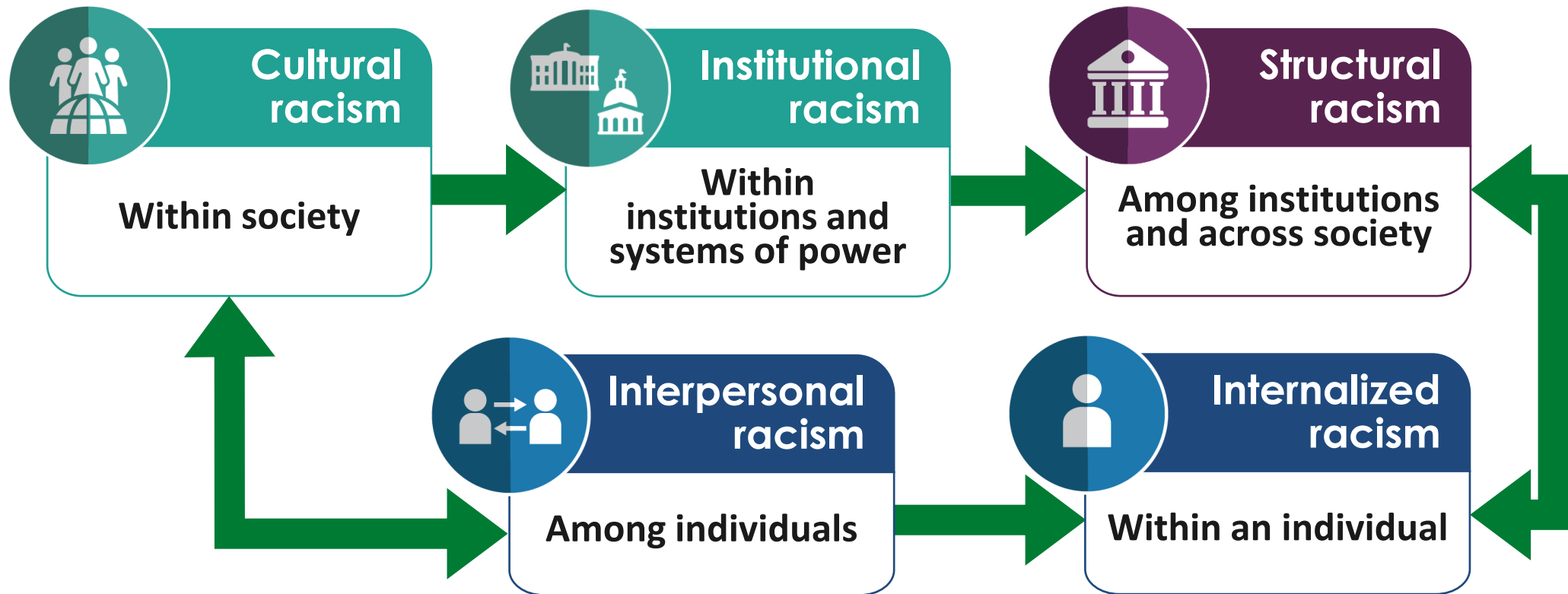
An organized social system in which the dominant racial group, based on an ideology of inferiority, categorizes and ranks people into social groups called “races” and uses its power to devalue, disempower, and differentially allocate valued societal resources and opportunities to groups defined as inferior



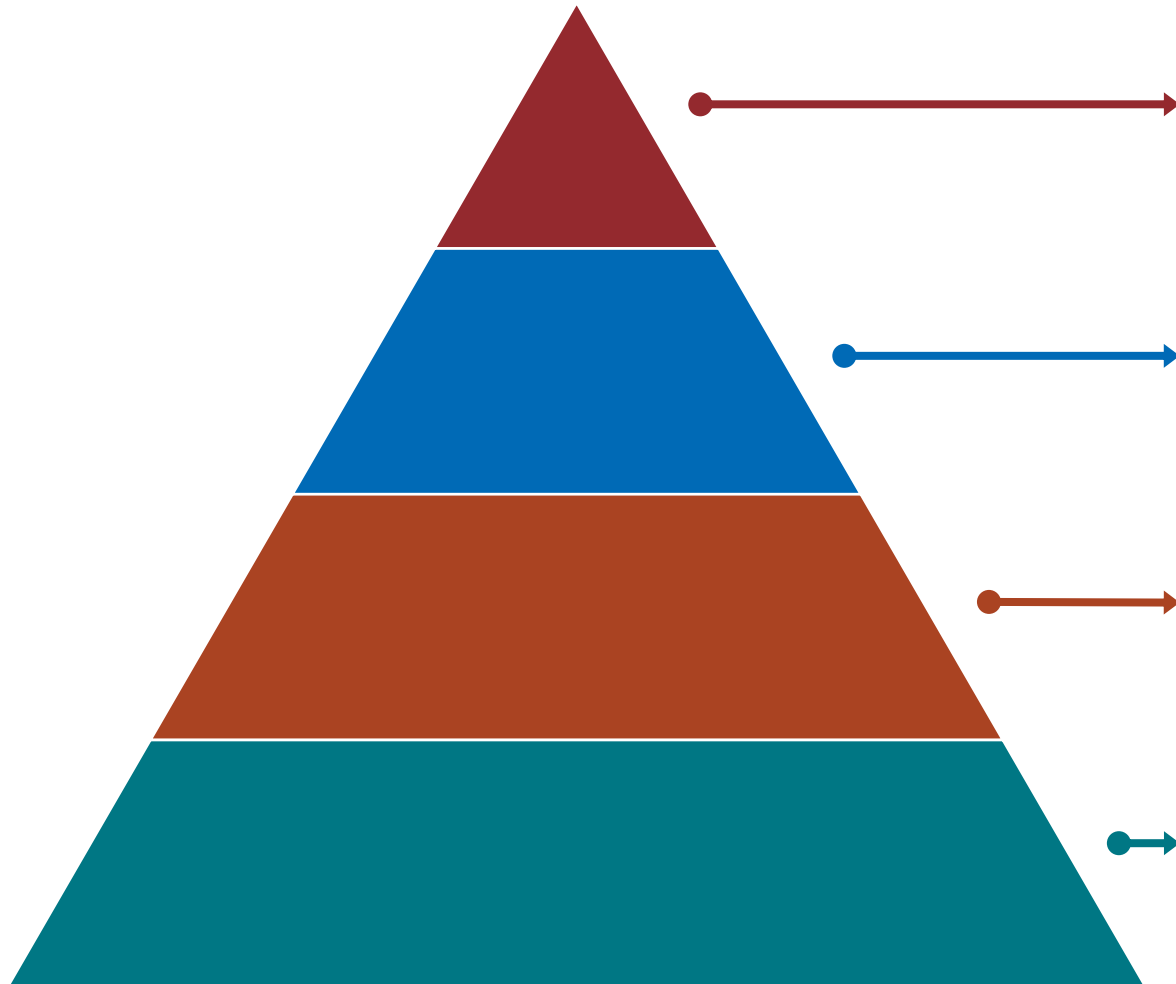
# Race

A social category, based on nationality, ethnicity, phenotypic, or other markers of social difference, which captures differential access to power and resources in society

# The System of Racism



# The Hierarchy of Human Value



This prioritization is referred to as “privilege,” the **rights or immunities given to people who fit into a specific social group**

**Prioritizes individuals based on various factors** (such as class, disability, gender, sexuality, religion, age, education, immigration status, language, and others)

Causes people to view racism (and other “-isms”) as **inevitable rather than constructed**

**Belief that certain individuals or groups are more deserving** of well-being and the benefits of democracy

# Colonization of the Americas



# Indigenous Elimination

Settler  
Colonialism  
Framework

## Extermination

- Genocide & Biological warfare
- Forced Removal

## Reservation

- Confinement
- Religious Conversion, Residential Boarding Schools

## Termination

- Relocation
- End Relations with Tribes

# Anti-Black Racism: Slavery

Settler  
Colonialism  
Framework

- 1640:** John Punch – first recorded person sentenced to slavery by law
- Shift from indentured servitude to racial slavery written into law
- 1655:** Elizabeth Key’s case for freedom
- 1662:** Virginia General Assembly passes “Negro womens children to serve according to the condition of the mother”
- 1682:** Virginia General Assembly limits citizenship to “Europeans”
- 1691:** first time “white” written into law, with interracial marriage outlawed
- 1787:** Three-Fifths Compromise
- 1790:** Naturalization Act, one of the first acts of U.S. Congress
- Free white → citizenship

1619-1865

Slavery

# Immigrant Exploitation

Settler  
Colonialism  
Framework

## Recruitment

- “Nation of Immigrants”
- Recruitment
- Labor exploitation

## Subordination

- Subordination and exclusion
- Degradation
- Internment
- Mass deportation



# Colonization of the Americas

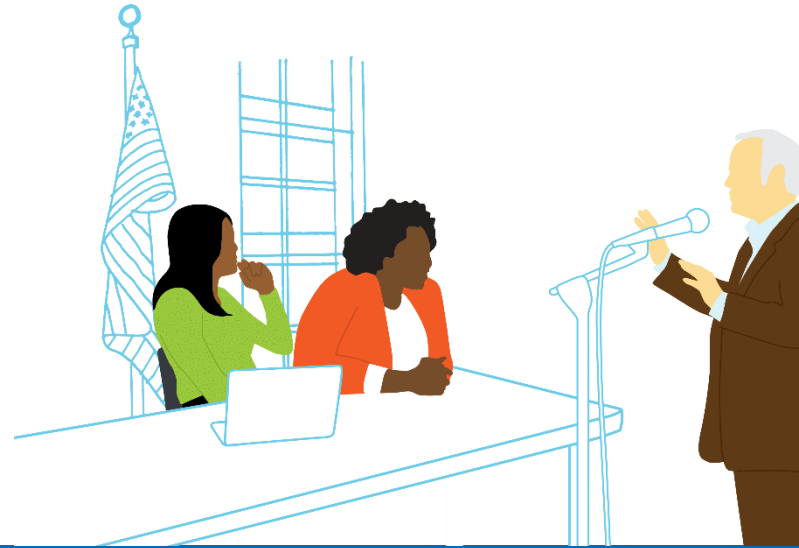


# Let's take a beat...

- **Zoom out again** (breathe, wiggle, scream)
- **Check in with yourself** (experiences, feelings, values)
- **Note any follow up** (questions, research, connection)

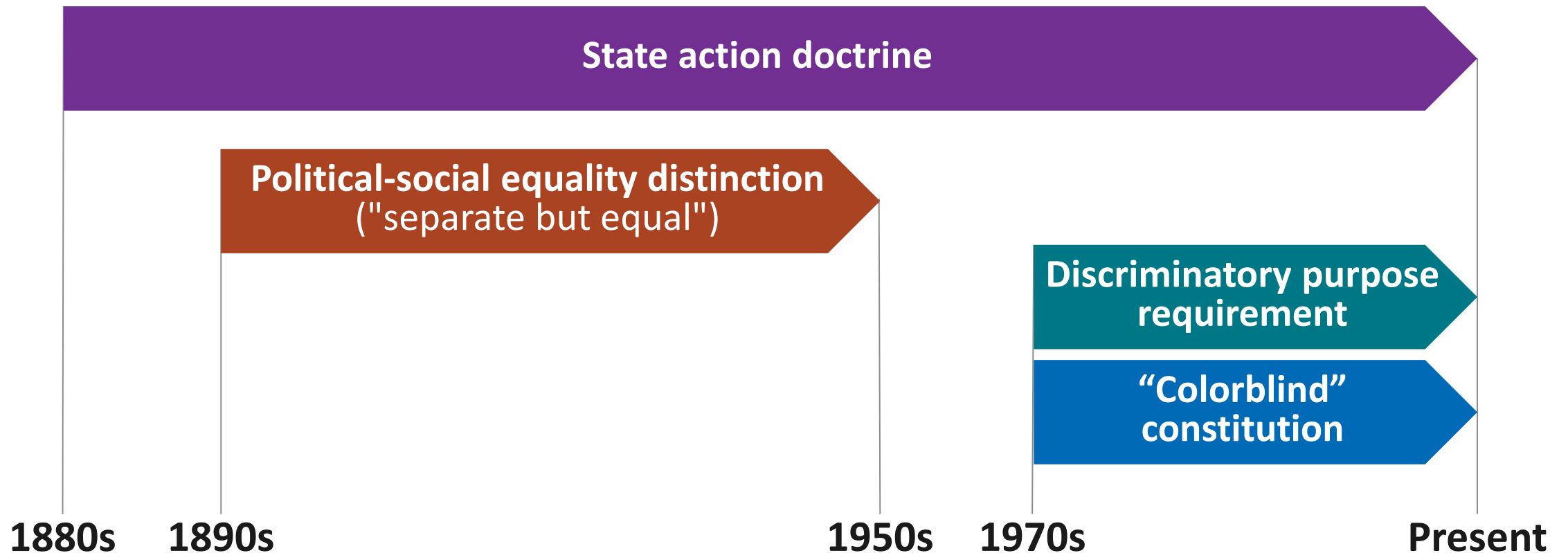


“ All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; **nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.**”



The 14th Amendment:  
Equal Protection Clause

# Equal Protection: Push and Pull in the Courts and Beyond



# “State action doctrine”

(until 1960s) Congress cannot prevent **discrimination** by private actors, only **state actors**

- 1883 cases struck parts of the *Civil Rights Act of 1875*
- Facilitated widespread discrimination during Jim Crow era

(1964→) Congress CAN prevent discrimination by private actors because it influences **interstate commerce**

- *Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. U.S.* upheld parts of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*

# Political-social equality distinction

(until 1950s) Equal protection requires “**political equality**” but not “**social equality**”

- *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) upheld LA’s *Separate Car Act of 1890*
- The (in)famous “**separate but equal**” doctrine

(1954→) Racial segregation in schools inherently violates equal protection

- *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* signals the demise of “separate but equal,” irrefutable connections between “political” and “social” equality

# “Discriminatory purpose” requirement

(since 1971) “**Disparate impact**” alone can support a claim of racial employment discrimination as a civil rights violation

- *Griggs v. Duke Power Co.* interpreted *Civil Rights Act of 1964*

(since 1976) “**Discriminatory purpose**” is usually required to support an **equal protection** claim

- *Washington v. Davis* decides “disparate impact” alone doesn’t evoke 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment protections as easily if state action is “facially neutral” (i.e., not explicitly discriminatory)

# “Colorblind” constitution

(until 1967) Racial classifications in laws aren’t investigated differently from other classifications

(since 1967) Racial classifications in laws are investigated by courts using “**strict scrutiny**”

- *Loving v. Virginia* establishes that states should have a “compelling interest” and minimal/balanced approach, for valid use of racial classifications
- Ongoing discussion across range of issues





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# Civic engagement implications

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**Consider a citizenship regime that uses racial categorizations as grounds for assigning and taking away citizenship**



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## Place-based implications

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**Consider spatial enactments of racial inequality that include policies and practices such as residential segregation, incarceration, relocation, and differential access to economic, educational, environmental, and health development**



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## **Economic market implications**

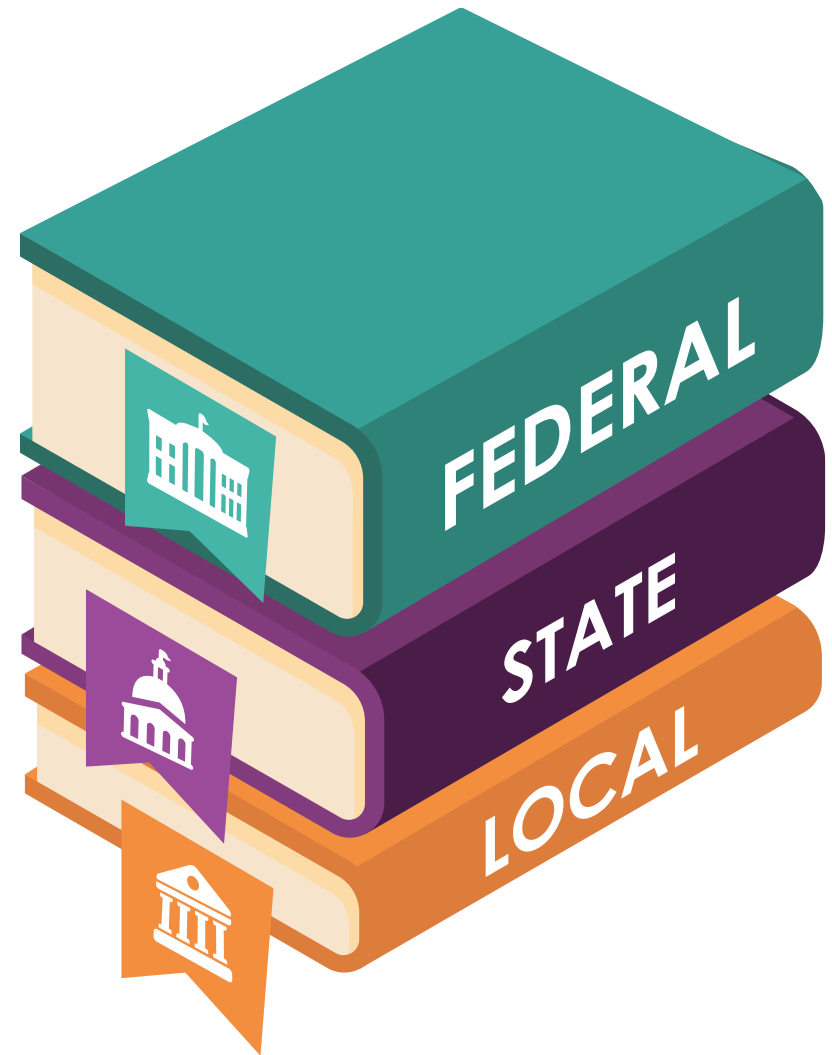
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**Consider a global system of racialized extraction in which race-making operates as a means of stratifying populations for the purpose of facilitating profit-making, capitalist endeavors**

# What is Preemption?

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When the law of a higher level of government invalidates the law of a lower level of government



## Consequences of Preemption for Public Health & Equity

May 2020



# Preemption & Equity

- **Why Preemption Matters?** In recent years, preemption has been used to take power away from localities, often in ways that perpetuate structural discrimination and racism.
- **Equity First Preemption:** “would classify preemption based on its anticipated impact on health and health equity.”
- **How?** It recognizes that preemption can support local government’s ability to innovate and respond to the needs and values of their communities but also acknowledges when states and the federal government should step in to limit local actions that might cause harm and perpetuate inequities.

# Incorporating Race & Related Factors in Policymaking

- **Race Conscious Policies:** a policy, program or with a racial purpose, goal or objective or an awareness of racial effects or racial conditions that inform the policy. They can include race based policies as well as policies that do not explicit state race as a factor.
- **Race-Based Policies:** the Supreme Court's prevailing vernacular for describing policies that use race as a decision or selection criteria, generally at the individual level. 3.
- **Universalistic policies:** aspire to serve everyone without regard to group membership, identity, status, or income. They often establish a goal or minimum protection for the general population.
- **Targeted Policies:** those that extend their benefits or protections only to members of a targeted group. Targeted policies single out specific populations or make provisions for selected groups, generally, to the exclusion of others. Benefits or protections based on targeted policies depend on group membership or another categorical basis of eligibility, such as status or income.

# What does this mean for rural policymaking?

1. Existing laws and policies cannot help but be a part of this history, and some perpetuate inequities
2. Laws and policies are being used to limit conversations about race, place, and class
3. Rural laws and policies can be used to address persistent inequities related to racist and classist structural drivers, whether or not they engage with these terms
4. Rural policy partners can consider various strategies, for example: race-based approaches and evidence of historic structural discrimination; the use of proxies and alternative terms; and related subject matter areas.

# Agenda

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# Implications, revisited

- **Civic** engagement
- **Place-based**
- Economic market

# Toward Better Rural Futures



# Learnings from Partner Conversations

- Tension between the need for transformative change and to leverage near-term windows of opportunity.
- Rural communities have diverse goals and regional differences - local innovation may be key to actionability.
- Language, framing, and implementation approaches for some policies need to be honed.
- Need to directly address structural racism as a compounding factor for rural economic disinvestment - and - fear that doing so will inflame divisiveness and prevent action.
- Focus on policies that simultaneously address racial equity and equitable economic development.

## Advancing Racial Equity in Rural Communities

Legal & policy strategies to support opportunity, health & justice



# Advancing Racial Equity in Rural Communities



SOURCE:

[https://www.changelabsolutions.org/  
product/rural-policymaking](https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/rural-policymaking)



# Snapshot from Advancing Racial Equity in Rural Communities

## Structural Discrimination in Rural Areas of the United States

The Complexity of BIPOC Rural Geographies

Understanding the Experiences of Black, Indigenous & Other People of Color in Rural America

Rural Black Belt

Indigenous Tribal Lands

Hispanic & Latino People in the South & West

Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders

## Advancing Rural Prosperity

Policy strategies to support equitable development in rural communities



# Advancing Rural Prosperity



SOURCE:

<https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/rural-policymaking>



# Equitable Policy Solutions: Challenges in Rural America

## Challenges, for example:

- Shortages of essential services (health care and education)
- [Housing](#) limitations
- Isolation
- Food and [water](#) insecurity and quality issues
- Climate change
- Disinvestment
- Deepening gaps for BIPOC communities
- [Broadband](#) internet access issues

# Equitable Policy Solutions: Tobacco prevention topics

- **Structural drivers** leading to uptake and use
- **Community response** to industry influence
- **Data** on tobacco health disparities
- Focus on **place-based** solutions
- Focus on **the policy process**
- **Equitable implementation** and enforcement



# Equitable Policy Solutions: Challenges & Opportunities in Rural America

## **Opportunities, for example:**

- Community connectedness
- Trade currencies
- Arts and culture
- Recreational opportunities
- Population growth
- Growth in certain industry and business partnerships
- Growth in remote work

*Economic development efforts need to be tailored to the local context and rooted in an understanding of a community's assets and residents' knowledge of how best to create greater opportunity.*



Photo: Flickr – by David Wilson

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# Strategies for Equitable Economic Development in Rural Communities

## Invest in People

Entrepreneurship & Small Business Support

Support for Black Farmers

Education

Workforce Development & Training

## Invest in Places

Housing Solutions

Business Climate

Tourism & Recreation

Climate Resilience & Environmental Sustainability

Infrastructure

# Legal & Policy Strategies for Rural Communities



## Involving Rural BIPOC Communities in Decision Making

### Policies with High Potential to Address Inequities

Agricultural Workers Rights

Prohibition of Racial Profiling

Native Tourism Alliances

Housing Trust Funds

Local & Targeted Hiring

Support for Small Water Systems

State Medicaid Expansion

Broadband Expansion

Paid Family Leave & Paid Sick Leave

Bail Reform

SOURCE: [Rural Policymaking](#)  
([ChangeLab Solutions](#))

## PLACE-BASED APPROACHES






Policies that influence how the fundamental drivers of health inequity shape places and access to resources for health, safety, and well-being

## APPENDIX

# A Menu of Policies & Resources to Inspire New Aspirations

- Building a movement for health equity
- Access to health care
- **Place-based approaches** →
- Early childhood development and education
- Fair employment and income security

SOURCE: [Blueprint for Changemakers](#)

	 Structural Discrimination	 Wealth & Income	 Opportunity	 Power	 Governance
Community land trusts	●	●	●	●	●
Community policing & violence prevention	●		●	●	●
Complete streets	●		●		●
Equitable transit-oriented development	●	●	●		●
Fair-share laws (environmental justice)	●		●	●	●
Food procurement	●	●	●		●
Housing first	●	●			
Housing rehabilitation loan & grant programs	●	●	●		
Inclusionary zoning	●	●	●		●
Participatory planning / people-centered engagement	●		●	●	●
Limits on density of alcohol, cannabis, sugary drink, & tobacco retailers	●	●	●		
Elimination of predatory marketing of alcohol, cannabis, sugary drink, & tobacco products	●	●	●		
Equitable pricing strategies for alcohol, cannabis, sugary drink, & tobacco products	●	●		●	●
Improved water quality & access	●	●	●		

# Policy Scan for Advancing Rural Equity & Prosperity

SOURCE: [State & Local Policies with Potential to Advance Rural Equity & Prosperity](#)



## State & Local Policies with Potential to Advance Racial Equity & Rural Prosperity

### Introduction

The information found in this table was collected as a part of a policy scan conducted for Toward Better Rural Futures, a project that aims to foster greater collaboration and alignment across local, regional, and state levels of government, equipping leaders with the tools and knowledge to fundamentally shift power, opportunity, and resources in order to create healthy rural places where everyone can thrive.

At the outset of this project, we conducted a comprehensive policy scan designed to identify state and local policies that can advance racial equity and equitable economic development in rural communities of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) that are experiencing persistent poverty.

### How to Use This Table

This policy table is designed as a menu for local and state policymakers, community leaders, and others who wish to understand the rural policymaking landscape as well as opportunities to advance equity in rural places.

### Policy Scan Methodology

The Toward Better Rural Futures policy scan used a three-phase process to identify state and local policies that can improve opportunity, health, and equity in rural places. The policy scan was designed to identify high-impact evidence-based state and local policies that advance racial equity and equitable economic development in BIPOC rural communities experiencing persistent poverty. The policy scan consisted of three phases:

In the first phase – scoping – a literature review and interviews with state and local stakeholders identified 136 state and local policies with the potential to improve racial equity and equitable economic development in rural places.

The second phase was an assessment to understand which of these policies have the greatest potential to affect rural equity. The assessment included four types of policy analysis. A feasibility analysis was used to screen policies for practicability, return on investment, and ease of implementation. Practicability was determined by the number of jurisdictions that had adopted or implemented

Lastly, the policies at the state-level preeminent underwent a review of the selected outcomes.

This assessment was conducted in partnership with a public analysis with pro that was publicly (Fall 2021). The p is not meant to s or state policy or

In the third phase to gather feedback on the next stages of the kinds of tools help advance and

# Policy Scan for Advancing Rural Equity & Prosperity

## TOWARD BETTER RURAL FUTURES: POLICY ASSESSMENT

POLICY NAME	POLICY DESCRIPTION	RURAL BENEFIT	RACIAL EQUITY	EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT	STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	OPTIMIZING COMMUNITY ASSETS	EVALUATION & MONITORING
<b>Support for Small Water Systems</b>	These policies provide tools, funding sources, and regulatory authorities to ensure access to safe, affordable drinking water as well as develop and implement sustainable solutions for small systems with violations of drinking water standards.	Yes	Yes	No	Very High	Strong	Yes	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes
<b>Transition to Clean Energy</b>	These laws transition states away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy, ensuring greater renewable energy production, reducing costs for consumers, and providing economic and workforce support for communities affected by coal plant closures and for development of renewable replacement power.	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes	Yes	High	Strong	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Food &amp; Agriculture</b>									
<b>Agricultural Conservation Easements</b>	Agricultural conservation easements are voluntary agreements that place permanent restrictions on agricultural land to prevent any uses of the property that would have a negative impact on its agricultural viability. Prohibited uses could include subdivision and development that is unrelated to farm operation. Landowners sell their right to develop their agricultural property to a conservation organization or a public entity that then monitors and enforces the restrictions set forth in the agreement.	Yes	No	Yes	Slight	Strong	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes
<b>Agricultural Workers Rights</b>	Agricultural workers rights provide agricultural employees with a safe and healthy working environment. Agricultural workers rights policies establish specific safeguards and rights for agricultural workers, which may address working conditions, overtime pay, paid leave benefits, workers compensation, or housing.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very High	Strong	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes
<b>Health Care &amp; Public Health</b>									
<b>Access to Reproductive Health Care</b>	These policies protect access to comprehensive reproductive health services for anyone with reproductive capacity by removing barriers to health care, creating safe environments in which to access reproductive care, and addressing inequities in access to services.	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes	Yes	Very High	Strong	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes
<b>Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis</b>	Declaring racism a public health crisis or emergency is the first step to acknowledging the structural and intergenerational role that racism has played in the health of individuals. However, the declaration must be followed with strategic actions and resources to fully shift toward advancing health equity. Declaring that racism is a public health crisis through a resolution or formal statement adopted by a school board, health association, or public health department aims to initiate changes to laws and policies and create opportunities to advance racial equity.	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes	Unclear/Sometimes	Moderate	Weak	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes
<b>Health Enterprise Zones</b>	Health Enterprise Zones (HEZs) are specific geographic areas that receive additional state resources due to their high rates of health inequities. HEZs establish standardized measures focused on reducing health inequities, improving access to health care, and reducing health care costs and hospital admissions, to promote healthier environments and communities.	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes	No	Moderate	Intermediate	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes	Yes



# Policies from the scan with strongest partner support

**There was broadest support for developing tools and resources focused on:**

- Agricultural Workers' Rights
- Bail Reform
- Broadband Expansion
- Ensuring Access to Healthcare Coverage
- Housing Trust Fund
- Native Arts Programs
- Paid Family & Paid Sick Leave
- Local Hiring
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten

# Policy solutions for discussion (another poll!)

- Agricultural Workers' Rights
- Bail Reform
- Broadband Expansion
- Ensuring Access to Healthcare Coverage
- Housing Solutions
- Entrepreneurship & Small Business Supports
- Workforce development
- Native Arts Programs
- Paid Family & Paid Sick Leave
- Local Hiring
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten
- Retail environment (tobacco prev., food systems and procurement)
- Water Quality Improvements & Access

# Policy Scan for Advancing Rural Equity & Prosperity

## **POLICY SCAN MEASURES**

- ✓ Rural benefit
- ✓ Racial equity
- ✓ Equitable economic development
- ✓ Magnitude of impact
- ✓ Strength of evidence
- ✓ Community engagement
- ✓ Optimizing community assets
- ✓ Evaluation & monitoring
- ✓ Preemption (legal feasibility)

# Policy Scan for Advancing Rural Equity & Prosperity









## TOWARD BETTER RURAL FUTURES: POLICY ASSESSMENT

POLICY NAME	POLICY DESCRIPTION	RURAL BENEFIT	RACIAL EQUITY	EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT	STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	OPTIMIZING COMMUNITY ASSETS	EVALUATION & MONITORING
<b>Support for Small Water Systems</b>	These policies provide tools, funding sources, and regulatory authorities to ensure access to safe, affordable drinking water as well as develop and implement sustainable solutions for small systems with violations of drinking water standards.	Yes	Yes	No	Very High	Strong	Yes	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes
<b>Transition to Clean Energy</b>	These laws transition states away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy, ensuring greater renewable energy production, reducing costs for consumers, and providing economic and workforce support for communities affected by coal plant closures and for development of renewable replacement power.	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes	Yes	High	Strong	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Food &amp; Agriculture</b>									
<b>Agricultural Conservation Easements</b>	Agricultural conservation easements are voluntary agreements that place permanent restrictions on agricultural land to prevent any uses of the property that would have a negative impact on its agricultural viability. Prohibited uses could include subdivision and development that is unrelated to farm operation. Landowners sell their right to develop their agricultural property to a conservation organization or a public entity that then monitors and enforces the restrictions set forth in the agreement.	Yes	No	Yes	Slight	Strong	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes
<b>Agricultural Workers Rights</b>	Agricultural workers rights provide agricultural employees with a safe and healthy working environment. Agricultural workers rights policies establish specific safeguards and rights for agricultural workers, which may address working conditions, overtime pay, paid leave benefits, workers compensation, or housing.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very High	Strong	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes
<b>Access to Reproductive Health Care</b>	These policies protect access to comprehensive reproductive health services for anyone with reproductive capacity by removing barriers to health care, creating safe environments in which to access reproductive care, and addressing inequities in access to services.	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes	Yes	Very High	Strong	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes
<b>Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis</b>	Declaring racism a public health crisis or emergency is the first step to acknowledging the structural and intergenerational role that racism has played in the health of individuals. However, the declaration must be followed with strategic actions and resources to fully shift toward advancing health equity. Declaring that racism is a public health crisis through a resolution or formal statement adopted by a school board, health association, or public health department aims to initiate changes to laws and policies and create opportunities to advance racial equity.	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes	Unclear/Sometimes	Moderate	Weak	Unclear/Sometimes	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes
<b>Health Enterprise Zones</b>	Health Enterprise Zones (HEZs) are specific geographic areas that receive additional state resources due to their high rates of health inequities. HEZs establish standardized measures focused on reducing health inequities, improving access to health care, and reducing health care costs and hospital admissions, to promote healthier environments and communities.	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes	No	Moderate	Intermediate	Unclear/Sometimes	Yes	Yes

## TOWARD BETTER RURAL FUTURES: POLICY ASSESSMENT

POLICY NAME	POLICY DESCRIPTION	 RURAL BENEFIT	 RACIAL EQUITY	 EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	 MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT	 STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE	 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	 OPTIMIZING COMMUNITY ASSETS	 EVALUATION & MONITORING
<b>Food &amp; Agriculture</b>									
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<b>Agricultural Workers Rights</b>	Agricultural workers rights provide agricultural employees with a safe and healthy working environment. Agricultural workers rights policies establish specific safeguards and rights for agricultural workers, which may address working conditions, overtime pay, paid leave benefits, workers compensation, or housing.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very High	Strong	Unclear/ Sometimes	Unclear/ Sometimes	Unclear/ Sometimes

## TOWARD BETTER RURAL FUTURES: POLICY ASSESSMENT

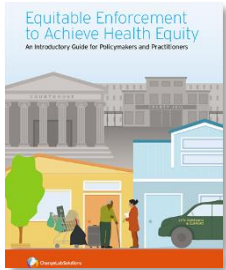
POLICY NAME	POLICY DESCRIPTION	 RURAL BENEFIT	 RACIAL EQUITY	 EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	 MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT	 STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE	 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	 OPTIMIZING COMMUNITY ASSETS	 EVALUATION & MONITORING
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# CDC's Policy Process

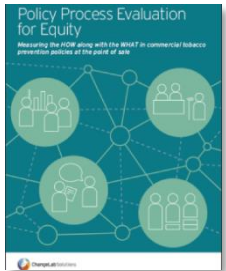


Source: [The CDC Policy Process | POLARIS | Policy, Performance, and Evaluation | CDC](#)

# ChangeLab's Tobacco Resources



[Equitable Enforcement to Achieve Health Equity](#)



[Policy Process Evaluation for Equity](#)



[The Point of Sale Playbook](#)



[Addressing Tobacco-Related Health Inequities \(Assessments\)](#)



[The Tobacco Point of Sale Preemption Playbook](#)



ChangeLab Solutions



# THANKS & NEXT STEPS



- Please fill out this survey to help us improve our work and build deeper connections with practitioners

<https://research.sogolytics.com/survey1.aspx?k=RQsXVVSsRVUXsPsPsP&lang=0>

- This recording will be posted and registrants notified via email
- Join us in one week – Wed. June 12 at NOON (note time change) – for Webinar 2: **Policy Development Process & Examples**

<https://changelabsolutions.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/PublicHealthAuthority13/Ec4C6kKam1ZNj2tCvNI9a4QBXOyAv1TWuEKgMRhSTrozw?e=osMA8B>

# Thank you and keep in touch!

## Website

[www.changelabsolutions.org](http://www.changelabsolutions.org)

## X (Twitter)

@ChangeLabWorks

## Contact Us

[info@changelabsolutions.org](mailto:info@changelabsolutions.org)



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# Evaluation



[Survey Participation \(sogolytics.com\)](https://sogolytics.com)

# Legal Articles

- Reva Siegel, [Why Equal Protection No Longer Protects: The Evolving Forms of Status-Enforcing State Action](#), 49 Stan. L. Rev. 1111 (1997)
- [Civil Rights of Health: A New Approach to Challenging Structural Inequality](#), UCLA Law Review, 2020.
- [An Equity-First Approach to Assessing Preemption | ChangeLab Solutions](#)
- Othering and Belonging, [Advancing Racial Equity: Legal Guidance for Advocates](#).
- [Dying for Equal Protection](#), Teri Dobbins Baxter, Hastings Law Journal, April 2020.
- Rural Policymaking: Resources to Advance Rural Prosperity and Racial Equity, [Rural Policymaking | ChangeLab Solutions](#)
- Jeffrey A. Parness, American State Constitutional Equalities, 45 GONZ. L. REV. 773 (2010), <https://blogs.gonzaga.edu/gulawreview/files/2011/02/Parness.pdf>
- [Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard FAQ: Navigating the Evolving Implications of the Court's Ruling - Stanford Center for Racial Justice - Stanford Law School](#)

# Rural Specific Resources

- Promoting Health Equity in Rural Communities ([success story](#))
- Identifying Policies That Advance Racial & Economic Justice in Rural Places ([blog post](#))
- Pathways to Improved Housing Quality in Rural Places ([blog post](#))
- How Poor Water Access Dilutes Quality of Life in Rural Areas ([blog post](#))
- Broadband Connection in Rural Communities ([blog post](#))
- Advancing Rural Prosperity: Policy Strategies to Support Equitable Development in Rural Communities ([strategy brief](#))
- Equitable Policymaking in Rural Communities ([webinar](#))