Take Action to Build New Paths for Equity and Resiliency in Today’s Landscape

America’s local officials are providing exceptional leadership amidst the unprecedented triple crises: a global pandemic that laid bare chronic injustices in our country, economic devastation to business owners and workers, and uprisings in streets calling for the end of systemic and structural racism. Long-standing inequities in healthcare, finances, education, housing, nutrition and other human needs are root causes of the protests across the country. These inequities are revealed in those who suffer the most infection, illness and death from the coronavirus pandemic.

Local leaders are called to seize this moment to build new, brighter, and more equitable futures; to take the elevated awareness of systemic inequities due to policy and systems failures and turn it into action. Municipal leaders can work to guarantee basic human needs to all residents and build stronger, healthier, and more resilient and inclusive communities. Local officials can re-examine power structures, policies and systems that have blocked opportunities for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and marginalized communities over generations and make needed change.

Join Us to Build Cities of Opportunity!

What Are Cities of Opportunity?

Cities of Opportunity advance equity with policies, practices and programs that give everyone a fair chance to pursue their dreams regardless of race, gender, age, ability, and economic status. Leaders in these communities address factors that affect life expectancy and harness political will with other elected officials, stakeholders and partners to deliver on America’s promise.

Cities of Opportunity are places where all residents can have:

- **Opportunities to learn and grow**, from early childhood through postsecondary education;
- **Affordable, safe, healthy and stable housing**;
- **Economic opportunities**, including family-supporting jobs and essential supports;
- **Transportation and social networks** that connect residents to jobs, schools and community resources;
- **Safe neighborhoods** that include accessible places to play and maintain active lifestyles, and;
- **Affordable, healthy foods** and other community and family necessities.
Cities of Opportunity in Action

NLC’s Cities of Opportunity supports local leaders in charting new paths that seek to heal long-standing inequities that improve long-term resiliency by:

**ADDRESSING DIVERSE, INTERCONNECTED FACTORS** that impact our collective health affecting how long and how well residents live including: *Economic Opportunity, City Planning & Design, and Housing.*

**DRIVING COMPREHENSIVE POLICY AND SYSTEMS CHANGE** and embedding racial equity within:

- **Civic Engagement** to develop and repair trust with communities and with residents at the table to shape decisions that affect their lives.
- **Data** to identify priority populations to focus on, to understand sources of inequities and to measure progress and achieve equitable outcomes.
- **Financing** to ensure equity and inclusion in how a municipality deploys its funding.
- **Multi-Sector Partnerships** to strengthen collaboration across local government, with state and federal governments, and with businesses, community-based organizations, and other local stakeholders.
- **Durability and Sustainability** of programming efforts with intentional and rigorous application of equity principles as cities develop and implement strategies for change.

Be a City of Opportunity

We invite municipal leaders to join us in building Cities of Opportunity. NLC offers varying engagement levels to meet cities where they are. Review our **2020-2021 Cities of Opportunity Engagement Schedule** to find the program that best supports your needs:

**CoO LEARNING LAB • SIGN UP!**
Launched July 2020, the CoO Learning Lab is an ongoing opportunity for targeted peer conversations that explore ways in which municipal leaders effectively use data, financing approaches, civic engagement strategies, building multi-sector partnerships and developing comprehensive approaches to better address housing, economic opportunity, city planning and design.

**CoO COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: STRENGTHENING CITY AND HEALTH SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS • RFP RELEASE IN AUGUST 2020** • For local leaders interested in developing partnerships with health system stakeholders to better meet the needs of vulnerable residents.

**CoO ACTION COHORT • RFP RELEASE IN SEPTEMBER 2020** • For municipal leaders interested in developing comprehensive and equitable policy and system changes in Housing, Economic Opportunity, and City Planning and Design to better address inequities among their communities.

**CoO MAYORS INSTITUTE ON JOB CREATION, EMPLOYMENT AND HEALTH • RFP RELEASE IN OCTOBER 2020** • For local leaders and their communities working to spur job creation and employment opportunities for underserved residents.

*TAKE STEPS TO EXPLORE THE NLC’S CITIES OF OPPORTUNITY COMMUNITY NOW.*
Learn more about the NLC’s Cities of Opportunity by emailing our team CoO@NLC.org

*Support for Cities of Opportunity is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*